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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

States

Chief Justice Rehnquist absent: Chief Justice William Rehnquist, who was diagnosed with thyroid cancer in October, will again not be present when the Supreme Court reconvenes to hear oral arguments on Monday, court officials said Friday. His absence will apparently continue for at least two more weeks.

Rehnquist, 80, missed arguments in the first two weeks of November, though he had initially said he could be on the bench during that time.

Business

Halliburton investigation: A third or more of the government property Halliburton Co. was paid to manage, for the U.S.-led Coalition Provisional Authority in Iraq, could not be located by auditors, investigative reports to Congress show.

Halliburton's KBR subsidiary "did not effectively manage government property" and auditors could not locate hundreds of CPA items worth millions of dollars in Iraq and Kuwait this summer and fall, Inspector General Stuart W. Bowen reported to Congress in two reports.

Halliburton and the Pentagon deny wrongdoing, and say they are cooperating in all investigations.

World

Land mine conference: The United States will not attend a major review conference next week about a 1997 international treaty on land mines because of the cost of participation and disagreement with crucial elements of the pact.

In making the announcement Friday, the State Department said the decision should not be seen as a sign of U.S. indifference to the land-mine problem.

The conference, starting Monday in Nairobi, Kenya, will review compliance with the Ottawa Convention on anti-personnel mines.

ASEAN finalizes China pact: Southeast Asian ministers Saturday finalized a free trade pact with China and a host of other accords to be adopted at a leaders summit, but touchy topics like the lack of democracy in Myanmar and Islamic unrest in Thailand were swept under the rug.

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations meeting was a prelude to a two-day summit of the group's 10 leaders starting Monday. They also will meet with heads of



Hunter's death: Mourners support each other in the falling snow Friday at the gravesite of Mark Roidt after the funeral service at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church in Dodge, Wis. The funeral for Roidt was the first to be held for the six deer hunters killed in northwestern Wisconsin on Nov. 21 in a dispute over a tree stand. Their accused shooter, Chai Vang, 36, remains held on \$2.5 million bail pending formal charges.

governments from China, Japan, South Korea, India, Australia and New Zealand.

CIA nuclear reports: Pakistan on Saturday criticized a news report that said Iran's nuclear weapons program received more help from a renegade Pakistani scientist than previously disclosed.

The New York Times story was based on a new CIA report suggesting that Abdul Qadeer Khan — considered a national hero as the father of Pakistan's nuclear bomb — provided more extensive help to Iran's atomic program in the 1990s than Washington has previously disclosed.

S. Korea nuclear dispute: South Korea welcomed a U.N. nuclear watchdog's decision not to refer its past illicit nuclear experiments to the U.N. Security Council, while North Korea condemned the U.N. agency's "double standards" on Saturday.

North Korea's state-run Central Radio, monitored by all-news South Korean cable channel YTN, accused the U.N. International Atomic Energy Agency of giving "tacit approval" to South Korea's nuclear ambitions. On Friday, IAEA's board of governors criticized South Korea for conducting plutonium and uranium experiments in 1982 and 2000, but refrained from tougher options, in-

cluding possible referral to the Security Council.

U.N. sex abuse investigation: Sexual exploitation of women and girls by U.N. peacekeepers and bureaucrats in the U.N. mission in Congo "appears to be significant, wide-spread and ongoing," according to a confidential U.N. report that documents cases of pedophilia, prostitution and rape.

The report by a U.N. peacekeeping official who recently visited Congo says that some U.N. personnel paid \$1 to \$3, or bartered food or the promise of a job, for sex. In some cases, U.N. officials allegedly raped women and girls and then offered them food or money to make it look as if they had engaged in prostitution.

N. Korea alleges psychological warfare: North Korea on Saturday condemned news reports that portraits of totalitarian leader Kim Jong Il have been removed from public places, calling them "a foolish attempt to take the sun down from the sky."

North Korea's state-run news agency, KCNA, said the reports were spread as part of a "psychological warfare" by the United States and other "hostile forces" to undermine the communist regime.

Stories and photos from wire services

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Misawa officials look to curb drunk driving

BY JENNIFER H. SVAN

Stars and Stripes

MISAWA AIR BASE, Japan — Though the penalties for a DUI here are stiff, people are still driving under the influence of alcohol. Twenty-nine DUI arrests have been made this year — the last one about two weeks ago, according to information from 35th Security Forces Squadron.

Still, base officials are hoping to reach would-be holiday imbibers with a simple message.

"If you're going to drink, drink responsibly," said Sherri Light, manager of the base's Drug Demand Reduction Program.

Base officials are calling December "Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month" in conjunction with the national campaign of the same name. Through-

Base wants to keep drivers safe, sober during holiday celebrations

out the month, they're planning Fatal Vision goggles demonstrations outside the base exchange, and they'll be tying green ribbons along Flying Drive to remind people to drive responsibly, Light said. She said the 35th Fighter Wing safety office also will be handing out green ribbons for drivers to tie on their car antennas.

"DUIs have slowed down, but it's up from last year," Light said. "Here in Japan, if you drink one unit, you don't drive; that's the way you have to think. It's not worth risking, 'Oh, I might be a 0.02.'"

In Japan, a blood alcohol concentration of 0.03 constitutes driving while intoxicated, according

to Master Sgt. Jere Brewer, a certified alcohol and drug counselor with 35th Medical Group. For some, that's one drink, and it's less than half of what it takes to be legally intoxicated in the United States with a 0.08 BAC, Brewer and Light noted.

A BAC of 0.03 while driving on base also is considered legally intoxicated and can result in a six-month suspension of driving privileges; at most bases throughout Japan, the legal threshold is 0.05.

Before venturing out to the local bars or a holiday party, "you need to have a plan," Light said. "Once you start drinking, your ability to reason is diminished.

The plans you make while you're drinking typically aren't the best plans."

The Misawa Community and Services Against Drunk Driving, or MCSADD, is free and anonymous, officials said. Volunteer drivers will give anyone who's been drinking on base a ride to his or her on- or off-base residence, no questions asked. Call DSN 226-1662 for a ride. Off base, Kichit taxi is available.

If nothing else, call "your first shirt or commander," Light said.

"They would have somebody over in a heartbeat," A first sergeant "would rather get that call at 2 in the morning than to have to pick you up at 4 in the morning at the cop shop," she added.

Light also said that friends of those who drink or anyone throwing a holiday party need to act responsibly.

"You make sure if somebody drinks, they have a designated driver," she said. "If somebody is drinking too fast, you need to tell them to slow down. You are responsible for the people who drink in your home."

Brewer, in a written statement, said: "Here at Misawa, we see our share of the [ills from alcohol] whether from a DUI, bar brawl, sexual assault, domestic conflict or a medical problem. The common thread is and has been the consumption of alcohol" in an irresponsible manner, he wrote.

E-mail Jennifer H. Svan at: svanjp@strips.osd.mil

Military scrambles to make MRE eggs better

BY JAMES HANNAH

The Associated Press

The military is trying to make the egg edible for soldiers.

Researchers at Ohio State University and two other schools are working on a new process designed to produce a tastier, more tender egg that can be used in combat rations.

The use of eggs in Meals, Ready to Eat pouches — or MREs — was discontinued about 10 years ago after soldiers complained they were rubbery, tasted bad and had a grayish tint.

"Eggs are a real challenge to get that quality that is appropriate to heat and serve," said Patrick Dunne, senior adviser in the Combat Rations Directorate at the U.S. Army Natick Soldier Center near Boston.

Dunne, a biochemist, said the previous process used to preserve the MRE eggs — which came in the form of an egg-and-ham omelet — involved subjecting the eggs to high temperatures for more than 90 minutes.

"You've got thoroughly cooked eggs to say the least," he said.

Gary Holben, commander of the Army Reserve 705th Transportation Company based in Dayton, Ohio, said the military will have to improve the eggs a lot over the old ham omelet for them to become a hot item among soldiers.

Holben, who likes eggs, said the omelet had a rubbery texture and tasted lousy.

"And the appearance was really bad," he said. "It looked like green eggs and ham."

Researchers at Ohio State, Washington State University and the Illinois Institute of Technology are experimenting with a way to preserve scrambled-egg patties by combining high temperature with high pressure. By applying pressure of 100,000 pounds per square inch, the process only takes about six minutes.

"The pressure kills the bacteria and at the same time doesn't affect the quality," said researcher V.M. "Bala" Balasubramaniam, a food scientist at Ohio State. "There seems to be a better acceptance of this product."

The researchers have been working on the project for the past 16 months with a \$250,000 grant. Balasubramaniam said the researchers have been experimenting with different egg recipes.

"We're kind of going through prototypes," he said.

Dunne said the eggs must be able to withstand storage temperatures of 80 degrees for at least three years and still be edible at the end of that time.

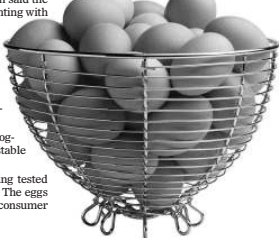
"We're trying to cross a technological boundary to make this shelf-stable stuff," he said.

The scrambled-egg patties being tested contain about 20 percent cheese. The eggs have been taste-tested by a consumer panel at Washington State.

"They blessed it," Dunne said.



V.M. "Bala" Balasubramaniam, at Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio, is shown with eggs ready to eat and how the soldier would see them in the package.



AFN opens greetings

MISAWA AIR BASE, Japan — American Forces Network Misawa for the first time is offering all community members — not just a few commanders — the opportunity to share their holiday wishes with the Misawa community.

The Army and Air Force Exchange Service and AFN Misawa are teaming up next week to give community members the chance to record a greeting to air on AFN Misawa throughout the holidays.

Thirty-second television messages can be recorded by an individual or family at the AAFES Main Exchange Bookmark on Tues-

day, 10 a.m. to noon; Thursday, 10 a.m. to noon; and Friday 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Call DSN 226-3730 for more information.

DPJ visiting Yokota

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — Lt. Gen. Thomas Waskow, commander of the 5th Air Force and U.S. Forces Japan, will welcome about 30 members of the Democratic Party of Japan to the base Monday for a routine U.S. military orientation visit, USFJ officials said.

The trip, arranged at the DPJ's request, is set for 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

at USFJ headquarters.

Marine Gunnery Sgt. Bob Hall, a USFJ spokesman, said Saturday the visit is standard practice and would not include discussions about the potential reorganization and realignment of U.S. forces in Japan.

Letters to Santa

It's not the North Pole, but it's close. Servicemembers and their families who want to send their wish lists to Santa can mail their letters to the Air Force's 354th Fighter Wing in Fairbanks, Alaska.

Postage is free, though stamps

and donations are encouraged to help defray Santa's postal bills.

Letters can be sent to: Santa's Mailbag, 354th OSS/OSW, 2827 Flightline Ave., Suite 100B, Eielson AFB, AK 99702-1520.

Free postal supplies

The U.S. Postal Service is offering free packing materials for families sending holiday packages to deployed servicemembers, according to the American Forces Press Service.

The package includes 10 boxes, 10 customs forms and envelopes, a roll of "priority mail" tape, and

10 "mini-pack" shipping envelopes specially designed for military addresses. Families must pay normal shipping costs.

To order the package, call 800-610-8734 and request Case Kit 4. The kit should arrive within a couple of days.

From staff reports

Correction

A photo with the story "Charity struggles to meet mission" said Amerians' in Sunday's editions incorrectly identified Yi Kyoung Kyune.

Analyst: China's social tensions spark attacks on kids

BY CHING-CHING NI

Los Angeles Times

BEIJING — When Ding Xiuzhen heard about the stabbings at the neighborhood high school, her legs went limp.

"It was so scared I could barely make it down the stairs," said Ding, who lives near the No. 2 High School in central China's Henan province. "I have a 14 year-old daughter. She is supposed to go there next year. Now there's no way I would let her go to that school."

Analysts say the attacks demonstrate how crime has escalated in a country where more than two decades of economic growth has created rising social tensions but few institutions to address them.

"It's no longer just about personal revenge," said Zhao Xia, a Beijing-based scholar who studies transitional economies. "They also want ... impact. That's why they are seeking out little children."

Several weeks ago, farmer Zhang Guozhu woke up, shaved his head, bought some sunglasses and marched into a day-care center in the eastern Chinese city of Suzhou.

He used a fruit knife to attack children. Twenty eight children were wounded. The oldest was just 6 and the youngest 2.



People gather at the gate of Ruzhou No. 2 High School in Ruzhou, China, on Friday following a deadly knife attack that killed at least eight students.

According to Zhang's account in Chinese media reports his younger brother and girlfriend had been charged with living together illegally. The village's family planning committee levied a fine on his parents and confiscated their meager possessions: 17 sacks of grain and three bags of fertilizers.

A year later, the committee imposed a new fine, this time a hefty \$1,200, an unattainable sum for the poor peasants. Feeling helpless and humiliated, his parents committed suicide by drinking pesticide.

Local officials forcefully removed the corpses for cremation

and beat Zhang's relatives who tried to stop them.

After failed attempts to seek redress, Zhang picked Sept. 11, the three-year anniversary of the terror attacks in the United States, to show revenge. A week earlier, Zhang watched militants shock the world by killing more than 300 people — mostly young children — at a school in Beslan, Russia.

Zhang's target was a local elementary school. But this year, Sept. 11 fell on a Saturday and the campus was empty. So he switched his target to the day care center.

About a week later, another

man, from eastern China's Shandong province, took out his frustrations on school children.

Chinese media reported that bus driver Jia Qingyue tried to borrow some compact discs from a co-worker. When she refused and an argument ensued, the woman's boss sent someone to beat up Jia, who suffered injuries that required him to spend a week in hospital.

According to one Chinese newspaper, Jia called the police but got no action. He too vowed to do something on one would ignore. He slashed 25 primary school students with a kitchen knife.

On Wednesday, Jia received the death penalty for his crime.

Mom turns in son accused of slaying at least 8 students

BY JOE McDONALD

The Associated Press

BEIJING — The mother of a 21-year-old man accused of slaying as many as nine boys to death as they slept in their high school dormitory turned her son in after he attempted to commit suicide, a news report said.

Yan Yanming, 21, was reported to police after he attempted to take his life late Thursday in the city of Ruzhou, the Xinhua News Agency said on Saturday. The agency said Yan confessed and said he slashed the students out of hatred. Xinhua put the death toll in the attack at eight, but another state-run news agency, the China News Service, said nine students were killed.

Yan broke into the central China dormitory at 11:45 p.m. on Thursday and "chopped eight people to death," Xinhua said. The China News Service cited a survivor as saying that during the attack, the man with the knife said, "Don't blame me."

It was the fourth knife attack reported at a Chinese school or day care center in as many months.

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IN THE STATES

N.J. community divided after school strafing

BY WAYNE PARRY
The Associated Press

LITTLE EGG HARBOR, N.J. — The night custodian was going about her rounds when she heard the patter of what sounded like footsteps on the roof of the Little Egg Harbor Intermediate School.

She thought someone might be running atop the building, but police found nothing.

The next morning, authorities realized what had made the sound: 20mm rounds fired by a National Guard F-16 fighter on a nighttime training flight over a target range four miles away.

The incident has divided residents of the fast-growing region around the Warren Grove Guntery range — some fear for their safety, while others consider it profoundly unattractive to question the military during a time of war.

"Had it missed the school and hit one of our houses, we'd be talking about dead bodies now," said Township Committee member Arthur Midgley. "We can't have this. This must never happen again."

But Terry Hickman, a 10-year Army special forces veteran, defended the range and the pilots who train there.

"Let 'em alone; they're over there putting their lives on the line for us," Hickman said as he prepared to hunt deer in Bass River, near the edge of the range. "That guy [the pilot] probably feels so bad about this. He's probably going to get sent overseas and he might not even come back. As long as no

one got hurt, this whole thing should just be forgotten."

The National Guard is still investigating what it describes as an accidental release of gunfire. Results are expected in about two weeks.

According to the military, at 9:02 p.m. on Nov. 3, a veteran pilot from the 113th Wing of the District of Columbia National Guard, based at Andrews Air Force Base in Maryland, was streaking across the sky 7,000 feet above the 9,416-acre range, which abuts parts of Little Egg Harbor, Stafford, Tucker and Bass River.

The pilot, a major whose name has not been released and who has been grounded pending the outcome of the inquiry, looked back over his shoulder for a split second, just as the wing-mounted gun fired a burst of 27 rounds. The 20mm cannon fires at a rate of about 6,000 rounds per minute.

The lead rounds followed an arcing trajectory that brought them to the ground four miles away. Eight bullets punched through the roof of the school and at least one lodged in a child's desk.

The pilot immediately radioed the tower that something had gone wrong and headed back to Andrews.

The range is shut down until the investigation is completed.

The pilot's commander, Maj. Gen. David F. Wherley Jr., told reporters in Washington there were three possible explanations: plane malfunction, computer error or pilot error.

Peterson's life now in hands of the jury

BY PAUL ELIAS
The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — He was a philandering husband convicted of the shocking murder of his young and very pregnant wife. His name wasn't Scott Peterson, though. It was Todd Garton, and in 2001, a California jury said he deserved to die.

"I signed the document that the jury found for death and I think about that a lot," said Fred Castagna, who served as jury foreman. "It was emotional during deliberations, but I don't lose sleep over it."

If the experience of Castagna and others involved in death penalty cases is any guide, the jurors in Peterson's murder trial will have to grapple with raw and deep religious, moral and legal issues as they decide whether he lives or dies.

Arguments in the penalty phase are scheduled to begin Tuesday, but experts say many of the jurors may already have made up their minds about what punishment the 32-year-old former fertilizer salesman deserves.

Jurors who have sent people to death row say even though they were overwhelmingly convinced of their guilt, settling on the death penalty was one of the toughest decisions of their lives.

"I have strong religious beliefs and this wasn't like I had to decide what kind of ice cream to buy," said Brian Bianco, who served as foreman of the jury that convicted Richard Allen Davis of kidnapping and killing 12-year-old Polly Klass.

Nevertheless, like Castagna, Bianco said he has never doubted that he made the right decision in sending Davis to death row after four agonizing days of deliberations.

It took a jury just 70 minutes to condemn Garton, who was convicted of hiring a hit man to kill his 29-year-old pregnant wife.

"There wasn't any real reason to mull it over," Castagna said.

"It was pretty clear that this guy was evil, that he had concocted this scheme to get his wife killed," Garton, convicted of two first-degree murder charges, is one of three men in California sentenced to die because a fetus perished during a slaying. Peterson could be the fourth.

Castagna said the five months of sometimes grueling testimony during the guilt phase of the trial "pretty much drove" the death verdict.

"You can't help but consider the fact that you'll have to decide punishment if you find him guilty," Castagna said. "That's always in the back of your mind, but you try not to let it influence you."

Determining punishment before deliberations in the penalty phase is a common experience for many death penalty jurors, according to an ongoing study by the Capital Jury Project at Northeastern University. About half the 1,300 capital case jurors questioned for the study said they had made their sentencing decisions during the guilt phase of the trial, according to chief investigator William Bowers.

Peterson faces death or life in prison without parole for the murders of his wife Laci and the fetus she carried.

Peterson

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Son's Iraq tour shapes lawmaker's opposition

BY KEN GUGGENHEIM
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Rep. Duncan Hunter says his son, a Marine artillery officer who has served in Iraq, asked him for two favors.

One was to fix his Ford Bronco. The other was to stand firm in opposing an intelligence bill that would strip authority from the Pentagon.

Hunter didn't repair the Bronco. But he came through on the intelligence bill — a key reason that a compromise favored by President Bush, top congressional leaders and the Sept. 11 commission fell apart.

To his critics, Hunter, chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, has been the Pentagon's tool, undermining bipartisan efforts to make urgently needed intelligence reforms in an effort to protect the Defense Department's turf.

But Hunter insists he isn't protecting turf. He says he's trying to protect the lives

Rep. Hunter's Marine son asked him to oppose intel-reform bill

of soldiers, including his 27-year-old son, 1st Lt. Duncan Duane Hunter, who has served two tours in Iraq. The lawmaker believes that shifting responsibility for satellite images and other intelligence now handled by the Pentagon could ultimately endanger soldiers.

Hunter said his son and other soldiers who have fought in Iraq and Afghanistan told him of the importance those images play in combat.

"My son was able to do things with intelligence in his artillery operations that my father, who was a World War II Marine artillery officer in the south Pacific, was never

able to do," said Hunter, R-Calif.

Hunter's concerns have been echoed by the Joint Chiefs of Staff chairman, Gen. Richard Myers. But lawmakers who supported the compromise say it would have ensured that soldiers receive timely intelligence. Some are skeptical of Hunter's motives.

Rep. Christopher Shays, R-Conn., said he believes Hunter "would oppose the bill no matter what argument he had to use to kill it."

Sen. Jay Rockefeller of West Virginia, the top Democrat on the Senate Intelligence Committee, said in a statement that "cynical House Republicans" never had any intention of reaching a deal.

The other main opponent of the compromise, House Judiciary Committee Chairman James Sensenbrenner, R-Wis., has said such comments will only make it hard-

er to pass an intelligence reform bill.

"You don't ever get a sense that he feels that pressure," said retired Marine Corps Gen. Terry L. Paul, a friend of Hunter's. "Once he formulates an opinion on something, he's steadfast in it."

Military issues have dominated Hunter's 24 years in Congress. He became Armed Services Committee chairman two years ago, yet despite the powerful position, remains little known outside of military circles and his San Diego County district.

Hunter says he believes that while the White House supported the intelligence compromise for the sake of getting a bill passed, it would have preferred a version that addressed his concerns.

"In a way the system worked," Hunter said. "It's clear that you have a requirement to reform the intelligence community. It's also important to protect the war fighters."



Duncan Hunter

Brothers in arms reunite to celebrate 'Alive Day'

BY KIMBERLY HEFLING
The Associated Press

FORT CAMPBELL, Ky. — Staff Sgt. Joshua Olson called it his "Alive Day," the one-year anniversary of the day he lost his leg in Iraq.

He traveled from Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C., back to the Fort Campbell woods where he once instructed men as a squad leader. Instead of camouflage, he wore jeans and a T-shirt, and used crutches to balance on one leg.

He wanted to get back to the comrades who helped him after he was hit by rocket fire. And he wanted to express his thanks, simply for being alive.

"Like I told these guys, 'I would give anything, anything to trade places with any of you guys right now,'" Olson said. "I would. That's the total truth, but there's a power greater than me that has something else for me, so I move on."

The 25-year-old Olson, of Spokane, Wash., never envisioned

things would turn out this way. He and his buddies had once longingly talked of coming home and tearing up the town.

But Olson was content this recent autumn day to just to hang out and have a quiet dinner with comrades such as Sgt. Chuck Nye, who dodged gunfire to pick him up and carry him after he was hit, and Staff Sgt. Matthew Stewart, the war buddy he was so close to that the others called them "sisters."

"We call it the 'I'm still alive' party," said the 34-year-old Nye, of Fitzwilliam, N.H., who lost an eye in a suicide bombing attack two months after Olson was injured. "We don't get to see him enough. We wish he'd just come back and we'd all be together."

Life hasn't been the same for these men since the late October day in 2003 when the convoy in which Olson was riding was ambushed in the northern Iraqi city of Talaraf. It marked a turning point from peaceful relations in the area to increasing hostility for their unit, Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 3rd Brigade.



Staff Sgt. Joshua Olson, left, jokes with Iraq war comrades Sgt. Chuck Nye, center, who carried Olson to safety after he lost his leg, and Staff Sgt. Matthew Stewart, right — a war buddy Olson was so close to the others called them "sisters" — on Oct. 27 at Fort Campbell, Ky.

After the attack, Stewart, 29, said no one wanted to tell him what happened to Olson. When they did, "I was just crushed," he said.

The rocket blast took Olson's leg at the hip, which is higher

than most leg amputees' injuries and makes it more challenging to fit a prosthetic leg.

Olson has spent 11 months at Walter Reed, enduring frustrating additional surgeries because of abnormal bone growth at the

hip that complicated the prosthetic fitting.

Dr. Jeffrey Guiliani, an orthopedic resident at the hospital, said that despite the hardships, Olson was always focused more on the well-being of the other amputees with him in Ward 57.

"He took it in perspective and realized he wasn't the only one dealing with the issues," Guiliani said.

Olson was at Walter Reed in December 2003 when he found out his former compound in Iraq had been struck by a suicide bomber, and that Nye had been injured along with about 60 others.

"That was really hard for me," Olson said. "I pretty much told everybody to get out of my room."

A few days later, Nye was transferred to Walter Reed. Nye said he came out of the bathroom, and Olson was there waiting for him.

It was the first time the two had been together since the night Nye ran out in the open while insurgents were shooting to get to him. "There he was," Nye said. "It was emotional — extremely emotional."

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CDC: More people having kids later in life

BY KIMBERLY HEFLING

The Associated Press

EVANSVILLE, Ind. — At 63, while many of Judith Cates' peers are contemplating retiring to Florida, she's taking her 5-year-old twins to pizza parties and picking up toys.

Just keeping the girls' hair combed can be a full-time task.

"Carli, you look like a ragamuffin," she said, smiling as one of the girls' hair drooped in her face.

Cates gave birth when she was 57 — even older than a New York woman who gave birth to twins this month just shy of her 57th birthday. A 59-year-old Georgia woman is pregnant with twins and due in December.

As medicine has advanced, so has the ability of older women to conceive.

A report released Tuesday by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found the number of births to women over 40 exceeded 100,000 for the first time in 2003. It also found there were 1,512 first-time mothers between the ages of 45 and 54 last year.

Cates and her husband, Carl M. Cates Jr., 53, concede they have endured some awkward moments, such as when people have assumed the girls are their grandchildren. But they wouldn't trade it for the world.

"They keep us laughing with everything they do and say," Judith Cates said. "If I wasn't so old, we'd try for two more."

Researchers say older parents have some advantages. A study of 30,000 households showed that people who had children in their 40s were better off financially, spent more time with their children and had a closer connection to the children's friends than younger parents, said Brian Powell, a

sociology professor at Indiana University.

"The older you were as a parent, the better off the child," Powell said.

But others question what happens when older parents suffer health problems or die. Even some family members have questioned Cates' decision.

Judith Cates' niece, Traci Wells, 31, of Owensboro, Ky., said she's not sure she would recommend other women in their 50s have children.

"I'm concerned about when they get older, having to deal with the loss of their parents at an early age," Wells said.

The Cateses opted to leave that in God's hands when they decided to try to conceive three years into their marriage.

"My mom lived to be 83. It was a wonderful life," Judith Cates said. "I pray to God I will live to be her age and have that much time with my girls and my husband. That's something that nobody knows."

Cates conceived through in-vitro fertilization after several attempts and thousands of dollars. She and her husband cried the day they first saw the hearts beat on a monitor



Twins Carl Sue Morgan, left, and Margaret Jan Marie Cates, right, make their mother and father Judy, 63, and Carl M. Cates Jr., 53, laugh in the living room of their Evansville, Ind., home on Nov. 19. Judy gave birth to the twins when she was 57.

in her doctor's office.

Still, being pregnant at a late age presented some challenges.

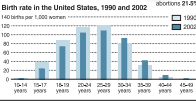
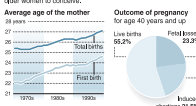
One day, Cates left the doctor's office in tears after she heard someone say she looked awfully old to be pregnant.

For the first three months of her pregnancy, she had to have daily injections to prevent a miscarriage, and she was put on bed rest the last few months. But Cates avoided many other complications associated with pregnancy among older women, and Margaret Jan Marie and Carl Sue Morgan were born at nearly full-term on Dec. 12, 1998.

"They were healthy, just perfect when they came out," she said. "We were so lucky

More women wait to be parents

The number of births to women over 30 has increased significantly over the last decade, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. As medicine has advanced, so has the ability of older women to conceive.



SOURCE: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

there."

Carl Cates, who works two jobs while his wife stays home with the girls, said parenting the twins is "an experience we enjoy 100 percent, if not more."

Dr. Wendy Hansen, chief of high-risk obstetrics at the University of Kentucky Medical Center, said older patients who have children with the help of fertility treatments are generally glad they did.

The question is whether 20 years from now, people will view modern fertility treatments that have allowed older women to get pregnant as a good thing, Hansen said.

"The long term has yet to be defined," Hansen said.



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'Grinch' stands alone in yard

The Associated Press

MONTE SERENO, Calif. — For six years, Alan and Bonnie Aerts transformed their Silicon Valley home into a Christmas wonderland, complete with surfing Santa, jumbo candy canes and a carol-singing chorus of mannequins.

Visitors loved it. Last year, after NBC's "Weekend Update" featured the \$150,000 display of custom-designed props, more than 1,500 cars prowled the Aerts' cul-de-sac in this upscale San Jose suburb each night.

This year, though, the merry menagerie stayed indoors. Instead, on the manicured lawn outside the couple's Tudor mansion stands a single thing: a 10-foot-tall Grinch with green fuzz, rotting teeth, and beet-red eyeballs.

The Aerts erected the smirking giant to protect the couple against the street — 16-year residents Le and Susan Nguyen, who

Dispute cancels holiday display

initiated complaints to city officials that the display was turning the quiet neighborhood into a Disneyesque nightmare.

Alan Aerts, who makes sure the Grinch's spindly finger points directly to the Nguyens' house, says the complaints killed the exhibit. They also violated the Christmas spirit, he said.

"What I grew up, people decorated everything — it was wonderful to be a kid," said the 48-year-old soft drink distributor and philanthropist. "If you can't even put up a display these days, what kind of people have we become?"

The Nguyens say that even after the Aerts hired a security guard to help direct traffic, the commotion kept them from having friends over for their own lower-key celebrations.

"We wake up to Christmas for

about 45 days of the year," said Le Nguyen, 55. "You ever seen the movie 'Groundhog Day'? It's just like that."

The exhibition's death knell came last year, when the Nguyens collected 90 signatures of protest from residents, and the city council voted to require a permit for any exhibit lasting longer than three days.

After studying the application process, the Aerts decided the usual display wasn't worth the hassle.



AP

The Grinch in Alan Aerts' front lawn in Monte Sereno, Calif., points toward the neighbors who complained about his Christmas display.

La. shopping season gets off to a sticky start after prank

The Associated Press

LAFAYETTE, La. — The busiest shopping day of the year turned out to be a sticky affair.

Vandals apparently glued the locks on dozens of Lafayette's biggest retailers, preventing managers from opening up promptly on lucrative "Black Friday." Hundreds of shoppers, some of whom arrived before dawn, were forced to wait outside Barnes & Noble, Old Navy and other stores while managers summoned locksmiths.

At least 200 locks on dozens of businesses were glued, including main entrances, rear doors and employee entrances, locksmiths Garan Wilson said. Wilson's first

job at about 5 a.m. Friday was to make his way to the front door lock at Old Navy — by pushing through about 500 shoppers waiting outside.

"I found about a half a tube of glue stuck inside," he said.

Kevin Vizeña, head locksmith for Pop-A-Lock in Lafayette, said the vandals squirted the glue deep inside the keyholes, forcing him to drill holes and remove the locks from the doors.

"We've never run into a day that's been quite so busy with these particular problems," Vizeña said.

Most of the stores had their doors open for customers by mid-morning, Vizeña said.

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Avril Lavigne is finally ignoring the critics

BY GEMMA TARLACH
Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

The voice on the other end of the line has the sweetness of youth and a calm professionalism. It's enthusiastic, yet realistic. It's kind of like talking to a really centered Girl Scout who would like you to buy one more box of Tim Mints, but understands it's not the end of the world if you don't.

Avril Lavigne has been many things to many people. The Canadian pop star, now 20, came out of nowhere in 2002, dominating the airwaves with a string of catchy hits from "Let Go," her debut album:

"Complicated," "Sk8er Boi," "I'm With You."

With sudden fame came snap judgments from all quarters. Some heralded Lavigne as a punk-rock chick whose radio-ready revolution meant the end of pop art diva domination. But just as many groused that Lavigne was just another corporate creature, spawned by a team of smart songwriters, savvy sound engineers and stylists.

With Lavigne released her much-anticipated follow-up, "Under My Skin," this time, the album's more mature songs were branded as too calculatedly poppy by some and not poppy enough by

others.

"Under My Skin" debuted at No. 1 in May and has sold more than a million copies. The disc still lingers in Billboard's top 40, yet some critics have dismissed it as a commercial disappointment.

What does Lavigne herself think of all the attention?

"To be honest, I don't think



Lavigne

about it," said Lavigne, calling from the road earlier this month. "I do my thing. Stuff comes out, and some of it is true and some of it is not true. Some of it is mean and some of it is nice. I don't pay attention to it. I feel confident with what I'm doing."

And that confidence showed in the production of "Under My Skin."

"When I went and made the second record, I told the label, 'I know what I want to do, and I prefer you don't call me every day to ask how it's going.' They said, 'OK, fine,' Lavigne said proudly.

"And I know what I want [the

third album] to be overall. Now I just need the time to do it, which I've asked for," she added with the calm decisiveness of a young professional ticking off to-do items on her BlackBerry.

While Lavigne waits to return to the studio, she's enjoying this tour more than her earliest road trips — and thinks fans will enjoy it more as well.

"This time I have a full understanding of what's going on. I'm much older now, and I'm more responsible," Lavigne said with the deadpan seriousness that only a 20-year-old reflecting on her teen years can have.

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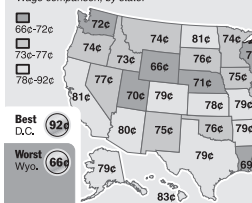
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Women's wages vs. men's

In 2002, U.S. women earned 76 cents for every dollar men earned. Wage comparison, by state:



D.C. tops nation in women's pay

BY AMY JOYCE
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The District of Columbia ranks ahead of all 50 states in women's median wage, while Maryland is a close second and Virginia ranks eighth, according to a new state-by-state report on the status of women.

Nationally, women are still decades away from achieving pay equity with men, according to the report. When race is factored in, the wage gap is even larger and will take women of color longer to close. The difference among women shows up sharply in the District, where the median annual salary for black women is more than \$20,000 less than for white women.

But overall, women who work full time in the city come closest to matching men's salaries, with a median annual salary of \$37,800, 92.4 percent of what men earn. The District also led the survey with 49.3 percent of women in managerial or professional positions.

Maryland women's median income of \$37,200 is 81.4 percent of what men there earn. The median

marks the midpoint of salaries paid, with half of workers earning above that amount and half below.

Virginia is ranked eighth overall, with its women making a median income of \$32,400 — 77.9 percent of what men make. The state ranked 15th in 2002. Nationally, American women are paid 76 cents for every dollar men earn, the study of 2001-02 Census Bureau data found. Two years earlier, it was 72.7 cents on the dollar. If that wage gap continues to close at its current rate, it will be little less than 0.5 percent a year on average over the past 13 years — it will be another 50 years before it disappears, according to the statistical analysis. "Jobs that women do tend to be valued and paid less," said Hartmann. "It takes time to overcome people's idea that women aren't as committed to their work. Even when women work the same jobs as men, they will in fact experience discrimination in pay because of attitudes and expectations."

Nationally, compared with white men, white women made 70 cents on the dollar, all black women made less than 68 cents on the dollar, and Hispanic women were paid just slightly more than half of white men's median salary, the report said.

By race, ethnic group

Amount women earn for every dollar men earn:



© 2004 KRT
Source: U.S. Dept. of Labor

Be cautious when saving screen saver

Q. My Windows screen saver would always work. All of a sudden it quit working. I tried everything I could think of and cannot make it work. I don't know what happened.

The only thing I can think of is it must have been some automatic update that did that quit working. I have a Pentium 4-based computer with Microsoft Windows XP Home Edition and Service Pack 2. Thank you for your time with this problem, as I really miss my screen saver.

— Dick Sommerfeld, Tomah, Wis.

A. Screen savers, which are small programs with the extension SCR, date back to a time when primitive monitor screens were susceptible to burn-in, a phenomenon in which something displayed for long periods of time in the same spot would remain as a ghost image after being removed. Screen savers kick in and present a changing display that would prevent burn-in if it were a problem.

Like you, Mr. S., lots of folks took a liking to the things, even though they are not needed these days.

Currently, many folks encounter screen-saver glitches after upgrading to the Service Pack 2 update to Windows XP because some of the screen savers built in to Windows were rewritten as part of this security patch for the operating system. Even though you don't give the name of the screen saver that you really miss,

you can find and fix whatever it is after getting a general description about finding and installing these popular little utilities.

First a warning, and it's a serious alarm, indeed. A goodly number of viruses come disguised as screen savers, because running a screen saver executes program code. Viruses need to trick a victim into executing a program to do their mischief.

To find all of the screen savers, use the Windows Search tool under the Start menu and type in the keyword (ASTERISK)scr and click OK.

You will get a list of all of the SCR files on the drive, including the ones Service Pack 2 had replaced with the new versions.

To ensure safety from hackers, right-click on a SCR file and select Properties. This brings up a display that includes a tab called Version, which includes the name of the file's creator. Make sure it is Microsoft or some other outfit you trust. Now look at the top of the right-click menu for the Test command, which will run the SCR file for display only.

Once you find the SCR of your dream, look for the Test command in the same right-click menu and run it. This will make the selected file your default screen saver.

Contact Jim Coates via e-mail at: coatesj@tribune.com or via snail mail at: The Chicago Tribune, Room 400, N. Michigan Ave., Chicago IL 60611. Questions can be answered only through this column. Add your point of view at: www.chicagotribune.com/askjim.

Ask Jim



Jim Coates

FRIDAY'S MARKET SUMMARY

INDEXES					
High	Low	Name	Last	Noting	% YTD 52-wk
10,573.51	9,520.87	Dow Jones Industrial	10,572.21	+1.57	+1.57
3,651.41	2,743.46	Dow Jones Transportation	3,647.99	+1.40	+1.40
334.38	263.42	Dow Jones Utilities	333.88	+0.44	+0.44
7,042.22	5,942.32	NASDAQ Composite	7,046.69	+30.34	+30.34
1,966.28	1,566.28	Amex Index	1,967.14	+33.14	+33.14
2,153.83	1,758.82	NYSE Composite	2,151.97	+57	+57
1,188.46	1,035.28	S&P 500	1,182.65	+39	+39
546.29	540.00	Russell 2000	546.43	+0.40	+0.40
630.29	515.50	Russell 2000	631.36	+1.66	+1.66
11,664.02	10,000.00	DJ Wilshire 2000	11,653.54	+14.42	+14.42

NYSE					AMEX					NASDAQ				
Most Active (\$1 or more)					Most Active (\$1 or more)					Most Active (\$1 or more)				
Most	Active	(\$1	or	more)	Most	Active	(\$1	or	more)	Most	Active	(\$1	or	more)
Pfizer	121324	27.16	+	3	Nasdaq100	305377	39.21	+	1	Grainco	29874	6.51	+	20
Intel	120118	31.18	+	3	SPDR	140333	18.10	+	1	Intel	702621	21.21	+	40
Microsoft	119918	31.18	+	3	SPDR	140333	18.10	+	1	Microsoft	702621	21.21	+	40
Amazon	119918	31.18	+	3	SPDR	140333	18.10	+	1	Amazon	702621	21.21	+	40
Cyber	109966	12.25	+	3	Whistle	37437	5.26	+	3	Cisco	143792	28.23	+	42
Aljazeera	108262	1.57	+	18	BetaGold	37437	5.26	+	3	SunMicro	16499	2.56	+	45
EBayInc	108262	1.57	+	18	SPDR	305377	39.21	+	1	USbank	17774	3.18	+	47
Genetics	78033	3.44	+	3	SPDR	305377	39.21	+	1	AppleC	97504	1.57	+	48
Google	78033	3.44	+	3	SPDR	305377	39.21	+	1	Google	97504	1.57	+	48
Qualcomm	78033	3.44	+	3	SPDR	305377	39.21	+	1	Qualcomm	97504	1.57	+	48
Citigroup	51842	6.42	+	10	SPDR	305377	39.21	+	1	Citigroup	97504	1.57	+	48
Bank of America	51842	6.42	+	10	SPDR	305377	39.21	+	1	Bank of America	97504	1.57	+	48

MONDAY EVENING / NOVEMBER 29, 2004

MOVIES

• SPORTS

[illegible]

JAPAN TV

Afternoon

12:30 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation (12)

1:30 U.S. Movie (1982): Rambo/First Blood
(Z:60)(12)

5:50 News (6)

Evening

7:00 News (1)

10:00 News (1)

10:00 Nikita (42)

1:50 U.S. Movie (1998): The Parent Trap
(Z:24)(4)

9:15 World News Hour

9:15 BS World Documentary (r)

11:15 CNN News

Afternoon

12:15 What's on Asia (r)

2:15 ABC News

3:15 CNN News

4:15 World News Hour

5:15 Asian News

Evening

6:15 CNN News

7:15 Asian Arts

JAPAN TV-RS7

Morning
6:10 Figure Skating GP Series in China: Women's Final

3:35 World Amazing Sport
4:15 Asian News
5:15 World News Hour

JAPAN TV-BS11

Morning
10:00 Classical Music: Banchieri Singers Concert
Evening
7:00 NHK News
8:00 U.S. Movie (1968): *Twins* (1:50)
10:00 *The Evening News*

WOWOW

Morning
7:30 Oswald No. 48
8:00 U.S. Movie (1996): *Courage Under Fire*
(3:00)

10:00 U.S. Movie (1993): Robocop 3 (1:50)

12:00 TV Series: Third Watch
1:00 U.S. Movie (2002): *Spykids 2: The Island of Lost Dreams* (1:45)
3:00 U.S. Movie (1977): *Saturday Night Fever* (2:00)
Evening
6:00 Spanish Soccer Liga Española
10:00 U.S. Movie (2002): *Undercover Brother* (1:30)
11:30 South Park No. 99
12:00 Spanish Soccer Liga Española

MTV

Morning
6:00 Wake Up
7:00 M Size Friday

8:00 Top Choice
10:00 Pure Music
11:30 Top Choice
Afternoon
12:00 Rocks
1:00 Classic
1:30 Top Choice
2:00 Color Jam 2004
3:00 Top Choice
4:00 Top Choice Selection: Rock
5:00 Top Choice
Evening
6:00 M Size Monday
7:00 U.S. Top 20 with Super Dry
9:00 Top Choice
9:30 M Size All Request
10:00 Rocks
11:00 Live
12:00 Classic '90s
1:00 M Size Monday
2:00 M Size All Request
2:30 Check the Rhyme

STARS AND STRIPES

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Politics aside, respect ACLU

I must disagree with the Nov. 22 letter "ACLU has outlived usefulness." First, the American Civil Liberties Union has not removed any liberties from the Boy Scouts of America. The court case was to remove federal funding from the Boy Scouts. Bases are no longer allowed to sponsor Boy Scout troops. That means that tax money and taxpayer resources will not be going to the Boy Scouts, requiring them to sink or swim on their own merits. The ACLU has not tried to get Boy Scout activities banned from military bases. Military members still may lead Scout troops and participate in them, and the Boy Scouts are still permitted to meet on military bases in areas used by other civilian organizations.

The simple fact is that Boy Scouts of America is not an arm of the government. It's a civilian organization, a social group of sorts. The Officer's Wives Sewing Circle isn't going to get federal funding any time soon for recreation and gaming social group that I'm a member of. Does it get any special treatment, so why should the Scouts? Boy Scouts of America cannot have its cake and eat it too. BSA officials can decide who gets to join the group, they can require new members to take an oath that is religious in nature but, if they are to have those freedoms, they can't receive federal funding to do so. The ACLU isn't trying to make Scout-ing illegal; it is making the playing field equal for everyone.

I certainly do not think that the ACLU has outlived its usefulness in any way; on the contrary, it is required more these days than ever has been. The ACLU does it all our rights, does it well, and is oftentimes the only group doing it. It is a lot of people object to the ACLU's stance on making sure that church is separate from state. They feel that ours is a Christian nation, and that the Chris-

Tell us what you think

Stars and Stripes welcomes your comments on editorials and columns that are published in the newspaper, and values letters on topics of importance in the lives of our readers. All letters must be signed, and must include the writer's address or base and telephone number. Please limit all letters to 300 words. We reserve the right to edit letters for length, taste and clarity.

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tian religion should be a part of our govern-
ment. This is, however, directly contrary to
the wishes of our Founding Fathers, particu-
larly Thomas Jefferson and James Madison.

Jefferson in particular was strongly op-
posed to any union of religion and govern-
ment, saying, "In every country and in
every age, the priest has been hostile to lib-
erty. He is always in alliance with the des-
pot, abetting his abuses in return for pro-
tection to his own." In light of that statement
by the father of the Declaration of Indepen-
dence, a man described by the White House
Web site as a "powerful advocate of lib-
erty," it is easy to see why so many religious
organizations, the Boy Scouts included, ob-
ject to the ACLU.

Madison, for his part, said, "An alliance

or coalition between Government and reli-
gion cannot be too carefully guarded
against.... Every new and successful ex-
ample therefore of a perfect separation be-
tween ecclesiastical and civil institutions is of
importance... religion and government will
exist in greater purity, without rather than
with the aid of government."

I know a lot of people aren't happy about
it, but there is no legal justification for the
military sponsoring the Boy Scouts, regard-
less of the benefits that the Boy Scouts may
or may not provide. People may not like it,
and people may wish the ACLU "would just
stop trying to defend freedom and liberty,
but that's the law of our land, love it or leave
it. For my part, this court case certainly
won't make me stop my yearly donations to
the ACLU."

Senior Airman John Nixdorf
Kadena Air Base, Okinawa

Curfew getting old in S. Korea

U.S. Forces Korea leadership has now de-
cided that the curfew previously imposed
only on active-duty military members now
must be extended to include all Department
of Defense civilian contractors. It's bad
enough that 30- and 40-year-old noncom-
missioned officers and officers were being sub-
jected to this, but now it includes DOD con-
tractors, many who are retired military in
our 50s and 60s. When is this nonsense
going to end?

It only serves to reinforce my belief that
fundamentalist Christians should never be
put in positions of authority. They simply
cannot refrain from imposing their values
on everybody under them.

How is it that only members stationed
here in South Korea are cursed with this cur-
few? Let's impose a curfew at every U.S. mil-
itary base worldwide and spread the misery
around a bit.

Charles Lacy
Songtan, South Korea

FDA funding, powers need fresh look

The Washington Post

either the current Senate testimo-
ny of David Graham, an assistant
Food and Drug Administration
employee, nor the controversy
over Merck Inc.'s decision to withdraw its
palliative Vioxx from the market have
provided conclusive evidence that the FDA's
agency, in Graham's words, "incapable
of protecting America against another
Viocox."

But they do provide evidence that intellectu-
al fashions in drug regulation have changed.
In 1992, Congress passed a law designed
to speed up the rate of new drug approval
to make too many ill people have to wait
too long for new medicines. The result was
the FDA's higher speed of drug approval is
sometimes cited as evidence that the agency
is too friendly to the drug industry. Similar-
ly, when large numbers of drugs were with-
drawn from the market in the past, that was
accused of having to do so because of

slippery approval procedures. But when
fewer drugs are withdrawn, as has recently
been the case, the agency is said to be too
reluctant to hurt the companies whose drugs
it has approved. Despite that, the lower rate
of withdrawal also reflects a smaller num-
ber of new drugs on the market.

The current discussion has also demon-
strated that the tools the FDA uses to re-
gulate drugs once they are on the market are
too blunt. Soon after it had been approved,
for example, the agency suspected that the
use of Vioxx might cause cardiovascular
problems. But officials had to negotiate for a
year before they were able to persuade
Merck to add that risk to the drug's labels.
The hesitation was time-consuming and
cause, other than withdrawing a drug from
the market—which the agency is rightly re-
luctant to do unless serious risks have been
proven (and the risks of Vioxx were not)—
the FDA doesn't have any way to force drug
companies to change their labeling. Yet

drug labels can not only warn patients of
possible side effects, they can also alert physi-
cians to categories of patients who should
not be taking particular drugs. In a world in
which... some risks will be considered
worth enduring for some categories of pa-
tients but not for others, labels play an im-
portant role and must be reliable.

The same is true of post-approval testing
of drugs already on the market. The FDA
can recommend that a company undertake
a clinical trial, but the agency cannot de-
mand that a company do so, nor can it order
any kind of post-market testing. For that to
be possible, the agency would need great-
er resources, as well as greater en-
forcement powers....

In recent years, the number of drugs that
Americans take has risen rapidly, yet the
FDA's drug-safety funding and capacity
have stayed flat. When the new Congress be-
gins, members should look harder at the
tools the FDA uses in regulating drugs and
at whether they should be improved.

BY GARRY TRUDEL

Doonesbury

YOU KNOW, I
NEVER REALLY
UNDERSTOOD
WHAT PEOPLE
SAW IN COLLIN
FOWELL.

ME
NEITHER,
SIR.

I MEAN, WHO
CARES IF YOU'RE
RIGHT ABOUT
EVERYTHING IF
YOU'RE ALWAYS
OFF-MESSAGE?

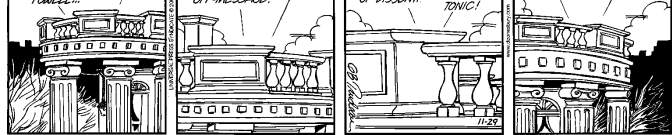
EXACTLY,
SIR!

THIS FURGE
HAS BEEN
GREAT. IT
FEELS GOOD
TO BE RID-
ING DESSERT.

IT MUST
BE BRAC-
ING GIRL
SALVING!
A REAL
TUNIC!

I LIKE
THE WAY
I SAW IT
BETTER.

SO DO
I.



OPINION

War defined by choices, not moral absolutes

BY FRANK PIERSON

Had news about war comes to the home front.

A group of Marines kill a wounded and unarmed Iraqi and walk away talking tough. I flash back to another war: World War II, New Guinea, 1944, leading a patrol behind Japanese lines, climbing out of the steaming coastal jungle at a South Pacific paradise named Aitape toward the snow-capped Owen Stanley mountains.

The trail is narrow, twisting up mud-slick hills so steep we reach for roots to pull ourselves up. I carry a 60-pound pack and a light carbine for this patrol. There have been no sightings of Japanese troops or activity for the three days we have been looking for them.

The radio isn't working. It pours down tropical rain every night, but last night we found a friendly native village where we slept under huts raised on poles.

The Army combat handbook for reconnaissance patrols makes it clear that if we are seen by either combatants or noncombatants we are to kill them; our safety depends on it. If the enemy were told we were in the area, it would, at the least, compromise our information and, at worst, lead them to hunt us down and kill us.

We know the people in the village where we spent the night hate the Japanese troops; we trusted them not to betray us. So we cautiously ate our K rations in front of them and shared our high-energy chocolate bars with their children.

Perhaps we should have hidden ourselves from them, for their protection as well as our own. But we didn't. In the morning we woke up and left them and sweated through the next leg of the patrol.

Now our Piper Cub spotter plane flies over us and drops new batteries for the radio and more K rations. The Japanese—if there are any—know where we are now. After 40 miles and three days of sweating through 90-degree heat and almost 100 percent humidity, they can smell us a mile away.

Then we see the yellowish-tan uniform by the waterfall. It is an officer. He is curled asleep on his side by the falls, his head on his backpack, his rifle by his side. At first I think he has died there.

But we freeze, staring at him, and we see the faintest movement of breath. For what seems an eternity we stand like statues, barely breathing ourselves. I think: Why didn't he hear us coming? The waterfall rushing beside him has screened out our footfalls. I look back—the guys are all staring at him, nobody moving. We can't be sure he hasn't heard us and is faking sleep. This is our first combat tour. We haven't yet killed anyone, we haven't seen death or dead bodies. He is the first Japanese we have seen.

This is also an intelligence mission. Japanese prisoners are extremely rare and highly prized for what information they might give about the true condition of their forces. But we are only three men, and our mission is to go by stealth deep into the interior of the island. To move with a prisoner for another week of cutting through jungle brush, wading in hip-deep swamps, climbing when we got to the mountains, would be impossible.

To extinguish that life is to end a uni-

verse. A sense of my own death sweeps through me, a darkness reaching out to the end of time while we have stood here for seconds, and all this hurricane of thought and feeling roars in my head.

I think, should we wake him up, so he will know what is happening to him when we shoot him? No, let it happen so he slips unaware from his little sleep into eternal darkness.

I hand signal to my second behind me. He very quietly raises his carbine, silently releases the safety and fires a single shot. The Japanese officer's body jumps

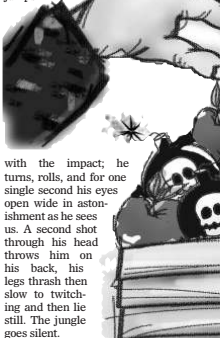


ILLUSTRATION BY PETER PROTINO/Stars and Stripes

We whip around, looking, listening for sounds of movement, answering shots. Blood threads crimson into the waterfall. Nothing.

I'm suddenly aware my heart is pounding, my chest gasping for air, I have not breathed for so long. Then bird songs. Breeze in the tree canopy high above. Far away a monkey complains. Behind me, the guys slump, leaning back against their packs. They smoke. The Japanese officer's face is peaceful but slewed away from the head wound.

In the moments that followed, I stripped his insignia from his uniform, noted that his weapon is rusted, dirty, that his uniform was muddy, his boots worn and unpolished, he was skeletally thin. He had been surviving alone for some time. I pulled a

sweat-soaked wallet from his backpack. His name and rank and unit. Photographs. A young and pretty wife. A child, a boy maybe 5 or 6. An infant. A life. In one picture: trees, a neat park-like setting, peace. A sadness overcame me, and perhaps it has never left me.

I turned away and left him sleeping by his waterfall.

I've thought of him often in the nearly 60 years since. In one sense, he and the young wife and children live on in my memory, always young, always smiling into a future they could not know. They

The officer was a soldier, and if I hope to have mercy when it is possible in the savagery of war, and circumstances permit, I owe him respect as an equal.

In World War II there was rightful outrage at the mass executions of our troops captured by the German army during the Battle of the Bulge. There is no doubt that the rage of battle drives soldiers on both sides to inhuman acts, massacres, casual executions like that of those Marines in Fallujah. War is hell, but it is not an excuse to descend into savagery.

That war is hell is a challenge—the highest and most difficult challenge is to behave well in the face of everything that drives us toward revenge, retribution, toward the worst in ourselves. War demands that we be and act at our best and most noble or else all is lost, and we become our very worst. To maintain one's moral balance in the desperation and confusion of combat is the measure of military discipline, of humanity, of maturity.

The outrages at Abu Ghariab are not the answer to the lynching of the Americans on that bridge in Fallujah. And though I differ with President Bush on almost everything else, the president responded to the news from Abu Ghariab with righteous anger and moral passion when he said, "This is not America. This does not represent our values."

It was his finest hour, the words of a worthy leader and a commander of men and women in war.

I don't know that our killing, a minor incident in a war that killed tens of millions, represents any summit of good behavior.

Perhaps because it was our first kill of many to come we were especially aware of the enormity of taking a life. We were not yet numb to the carnage. Did we behave well? We followed our orders. We cared. And what we took from that officer I carry with me forever.

I won't judge those trash-talking Marines. I only hope they remember that bloody, defeated man they reduced to a corpse as something more than meaningless residue of battle. Or the battle itself is meaningless.

Frank Pierson wrote "Call Ballout," "Cool Hand Luke" and "Dog Day Afternoon," among other films, and is president of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. This column first appeared in the Los Angeles Times.

Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY



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Tragic death

FL ST. PETERSBURG — Edna Buice had a stroke a few weeks ago, but she was doing so well that her children thought she might be home for Thanksgiving.

Those hopes ended Nov. 7 when the 82-year-old died in a bizarre accident at Bayfront Medical Center.

A padded belt restraint was fastened around Buice's waist, meant to keep her upright in the wheelchair because the stroke had paralyzed her right side.

Buice somehow slipped under the restraint while left unattended. A nurse found her sitting on the floor in front of the wheelchair with the restraint caught around her neck.

The nurse tried CPR, but it was too late, said police Sgt. Mike Puetz.

"My mom was one of the sweetest, kindest, most godly women I have ever known in my entire life," said Lou Ballenger, one of Buice's four children. "She wanted to live very much. She was improving. And then this horrible, horrible tragedy."

Harassment settlement

NJ NEWARK — A jury awarded \$2.8 million to a former sheriff's officer who said she suffered sexual harassment from other officers because she's a lesbian. Karen Caggiano, 43, testified she had to use the same bathroom and locker room as male officers, and that pictures of naked women were posted on lockers.

Her lawyers also say one officer repeatedly exposed himself. The lawyer for the county said the department responded thoroughly to Caggiano's complaints.

Bicyclist killed in crash

FL TAMPA — A sheriff's deputy's truck and killed a bicyclist as the man pedaled home from a convenience store along a dark road.

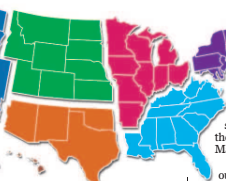
Hillsborough County sheriff's spokesman Lt. Rod Reder said Deputy Steve Figueroa, 34, a first-year member of the force, was on patrol in a cruiser that night.

A bicyclist veered in front of him in an attempt to cross the road. Reder said. The deputy swerved but ended up striking the bicyclist, sending the man flying to the side of the road. A pickup then hit the bicyclist again, tossing it across the road.

Several family members at the scene said the bicyclist was Ronald Seger, 43, who lived near the crash site. He was pronounced dead at the scene.

Study on asthma risk

NY BUFFALO — Researchers from the University at Buffalo have found another reason to be concerned over traffic backups at the U.S.-Canadian border: People living near the crossings, which are prone to commercial truck backups, appear to be at greater risk of developing asthma. Researchers say their study conducted at Buffalo's Peace Bridge



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

has implications for all busy border crossings.

Death debt mystery

AR HARRISON — Authorities are searching for a man accused of avoiding a debt by faking his own death. Terry Presnell, a former small newspaper publisher, allegedly sent a phony death certificate to a printing business to which he owed \$1,857. The document said Presnell died in a traffic accident in Mexico.

Town sues to use 'Jesus'

SC GREAT FALLS — The Town Council voted 6-1 to ask the U.S. Supreme Court to overturn lower court rulings that prevent it from using Jesus Christ's name in prayers at meetings. Both a U.S. District judge and a federal appeals court agreed council members cannot refer to a specific deity in prayers at meetings. The original lawsuit was filed in 2001 by Darla Wynne, a Wiccan high priestess.

Movie pirate nabbed

CA LOS ANGELES — A Malaysian man must pay film studios \$23.8 million for running a Web site that allowed paying members to watch pirated movies, the Motion Picture Association said.

A federal judge announced the decision against Tan Soo Leong at



Holiday lights

Christmas lights and fireworks illuminate Country Club Plaza in Kansas City, Mo., while thousands attend the traditional lighting ceremony.

a hearing Monday, said John Malcolm, MPA's director of worldwide anti-piracy operations.

Leong ran the Web site film88.com and a company called MasterSurf Inc., which set up computer servers overseas to protect the business from liability, Malcolm said Tuesday.

The MPA said Leong previously ran a similar Web site, movie88.com, which was shut down by officials in Taiwan. Dutch courts also shut down servers he later set up in Iran and the Netherlands, the MPA said.

Monkey gets new home

HI HONOLULU — A monkey seized from a raid on a Makiki home last month will have a new home at a Big Island zoo, while state agriculture officials have dismissed a complaint about three other monkeys kept in a display at a nightclub.

The two-year-old squirrel monkey seized by state officials had been part of an aquarium-style display at the Blue Tropic Restaurant and Nightclub before owner Darren Tsuchiya sold it. But the man who bought the monkey didn't have a state permit or bond to own a restricted animal, and he was cited and fined \$1,000.

Tsuchiya was cited and fined \$200 for failing to comply with bond conditions required for possessing a nonhuman primate.

Man drops business plan

IL ANTIOCH — A businessman has given up plans to open a coffee shop that angered residents with its name.

Tony Liotta had signed up to open a Bad Ass Coffee franchise in the northern Illinois community of Antioch and argued that the chain takes its name from the donkeys used to haul beans in Hawaii.

But Antioch residents weren't convinced, and the village board earlier this month passed a resolution that condemned the name as "repugnant to the entire concept of family values."

Now, Liotta has canceled plans to open the store, citing personal reasons.

Bad Ass Coffee is based in Salt Lake City. Executive Harold Hill called Liotta's decision disappointing and said the chain will try to find a new owner for the Antioch shop.

Lawsuit dismissed

PA ALLENTOWN — A lawsuit against the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation arguing that it was responsible for the death of a Berks County woman killed by a chunk of ice thrown from an overpass has been dismissed.

Elaine Cowell, 33, was killed in January 2003 when a 15-year-old boy threw the ice off a bridge near Allentown. The ice crashed through the windshield of a van in which Cowell was riding, killing her.

The lawsuit argued that PennDOT was negligent because it had not installed a fence on the overpass to prevent people from throwing objects onto the highway. A fence was installed there after Cowell's death.



We all fall down

Dave Durbala and his daughter, Gretchen, 5, smile as they tip over while

sledding at Perkins Park in Burlington, Iowa.



Feeding flying friends

Trever James of Tyler, Texas, throws corn flakes to the geese and ducks at Craighead Forest Park in Jonesboro, Ark.



Right of way

Tim Knapp of Bow, Wash., yields to traffic while canoeing down Chuckanut Drive in Bow after the Samish River flooded its banks.



Joyful reopening

Connor Brodbeck, 16 months, celebrates the reopening of FAO Schwarz Flagship Store on New York's Fifth Avenue on Thanksgiving Day.



Helping hands

Three-year-old Kelly Tounou of Moline, Ill., helps out with the Thanksgiving dinner clean-up effort as she pushes a cart full of dirty tablecloths through the Christ The King, Believers Together building after a community dinner.



Wacky weather

Gary Vest, a Caterpillar Inc. accountant, struggles with a strong gust of wind while crossing in downtown Peoria, Ill.



Waiting on a ride

Michael Farleigh, 14, of Clearcreek Township, Ohio, practices playing his guitar as he waits in front of the Amanda Clearcreek School for a ride home.

Marriage twice as nice

NE KEARNEY — Amy Springer really loves her husband, Marine Lance Cpl. Brett Springer. She's married him twice in the last 12 months.

The Springers had planned a November 2004 ceremony but found themselves tying the knot at the courthouse a whole year before Brett was shipped out to Iraq. They said their "I do's" again Friday, the date they had originally picked for their wedding. This time, though, the setting was First United Methodist Church in Kearney.

"We were already planning this [Friday's] wedding when we found out he was leaving," said Amy, 23. "So we just decided it would be easier to get married before he left again."

Amy's father, 52-year-old Mike Oliver, couldn't be at the church ceremony because he is in Kuwait with the Nebraska Army National Guard's 107th Medium Truck Company.

"It was either do it while he [Brett] was here or do it while my dad was here," Amy said.

Brett, 28, is scheduled to return to Iraq in February.

Family's birthday bond

FL BELLEVUE — It's hard to forget a birthday in the Dover family — every son was born on Nov. 26.

One Friday, Kimberly Dover turned 31, husband Billy turned 35 and their twins, Angelica and Derrick, celebrated their first birthday.

The parents said they were surprised to have any children, let alone two on their birthday. After years of infertility, they were about to give up when one last treatment proved effective.

The proud parents are looking forward to more birthdays.

"I can't wait till they go to Walt Disney World," Kimberly said.

Ceiling crash

IL SPRINGFIELD — At least four people were injured when netting across the open atrium of a six-story government building collapsed and tore down sections that crashed through the ceiling of a room below.

The netting was weighed down by snow and ice, the result of a storm that blanketed the Midwest on Wednesday.

The falling stone left a gash about 60 feet long in the atrium's floor, said Dave DeFraties, chief of operations for the Springfield Fire Department.

Officials said four people were taken to a hospital with injuries ranging from scrapes to a head laceration. The injuries did not appear to be life-threatening.

Those cats can travel

NC CHARLOTTE — Wild Thing, Georgia, Sparky and Boots aren't very old, but they sure get around.

The feline foursome arrived with a parts shipment that Twin-Star Construction in Charlotte had ordered from Georgia. The kittens somehow found their way into the box and survived without food or water.

The kittens were so young that they hadn't opened their eyes, said Cathy Thomas, who works for the construction company. She took

them home and began feeding them with an eyedropper; her twin sons picked the names.

Each cat requires a 2-ounce bottle every three hours.

Disastrous survey

KY LEXINGTON — An automated phone survey on disaster preparedness turned into its own mini-disaster.

The survey was designed to run from 4 to 9 p.m. last Monday and Tuesday. Instead, a malfunction Monday night caused the computerized calling program to dial numbers until 4 or 5 a.m. Tuesday.

Patricia Dugger, who heads the city's emergency management division, apologized for the error but noted most residents haven't complained — they just said they were too sleepy to do the survey.

Avtec, a Minneapolis-based firm that developed the calling system, is trying to determine what went awry.

City to repeal Indian law

MA BOSTON — Mayor Tom Menino took the first step toward repealing a 329-year-old law that orders the arrest of all American Indians who enter the city.

The law has not been enforced for centuries, but tribes have been trying to win a repeal for years.

The City Council passed a resolution in favor of repeal last year; the final action must be taken by the Legislature. Menino filed a petition to set the legislative process in motion.

"It's time to make things right," he said in a statement the day before Thanksgiving.

The colonial Legislature approved the statute Oct. 13, 1675, during King Philip's War, one of the bloodiest conflicts in American history — a series of guerrilla battles between British colonists and tribes.

Volunteer arrested

TX HOUSTON — A Special Olympics volunteer with a suburban Houston school district has been arrested on charges that he sexually assaulted developmentally disabled teenage boys.

Richard Craig Hopper, 39, was charged with four counts of sexual assault of a child after his Monday arrest. He was in the Harris County Jail in Houston late Tuesday in lieu of bonds totaling \$400,000, officials said.

Hopper, a former substitute teacher for the Galena Park Independent School District, is scheduled to appear in court Wednesday.

Injection results in death

WA SEATTLE — A woman who underwent surgery for a brain aneurysm died after she was mistakenly injected with an antiseptic solution instead of a harmless X-ray marker dye, hospital officials say.

Mary McCClinton, 69, had the operation Nov. 4 at Virginia Mason Medical Center and died Tuesday.

At the end of McCClinton's operation, a technician was supposed to inject the dye into a leg artery. Instead, the syringe was filled with chlorhexidine, a highly toxic solution used to clean the skin, hospital quality chief Dr. Robert Caplan said.

Stories and photos from wire reports

Fox Trot



B.C.



Baby Bites



Spider Man



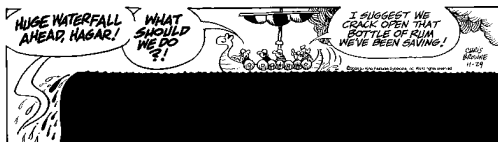
Blondie



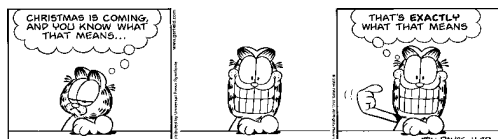
Dilbert



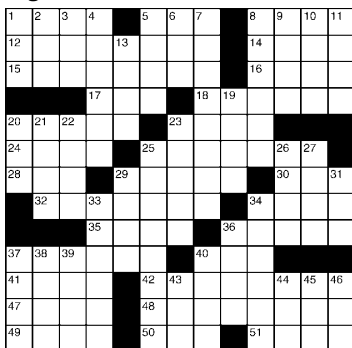
Hagar



Garfield



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



Across

- 1 Hemingway
- 5 Perch
- 8 Black, in verse
- 12 Connotation
- 14 Caligula's nephew
- 15 Vendor
- 16 Dr. Seuss' "if — the Zoo"
- 17 Diving bird
- 18 Bargain
- 20 Improve
- 23 Bacterium
- 24 Lose color
- 25 Chicken of the Sea symbol
- 28 Playground game
- 29 Sweetheart
- 30 The buck stops here
- 32 Deserved
- 34 Skin opening
- 35 Oodles
- 36 Re Ra
- 37 Stephen King's genre
- 40 Church seat
- 41 Chills and fever
- 42 ABC's Vieira
- 47 Diamond or Simon
- 48 Baldness
- 49 Say it isn't so
- 50 Pinch
- 51 Landlord's due

Down

- 1 Lap dog, for short
- 2 Rd.
- 3 Apiece
- 4 Obscure
- 5 Drench
- 6 Hostel
- 7 On a leash
- 8 Baffler
- 9 Titanic thwart
- 10 By spoken word of mouth
- 11 Zilch
- 12 Sound of a dull impact
- 13 Host
- 14 Sternward
- 15 One often thanked?
- 22 Advantage
- 23 Existentialist playwright
- 25 Streetcar driver
- 26 "American —" character
- 27 "David Copperfield" character
- 29 Port city on the Big Island
- 31 Always
- 33 Almost never
- 34 Keg contents
- 36 Leak slowly
- 37 Applause
- 38 Curved molding
- 39 Destruction
- 40 Object on stage
- 43 Inventor
- 44 Bar supply
- 45 Stannum
- 46 Chapeau

Answer to Previous Puzzle



11-29

CRYPTOQUIP

G T K S F V Q K U R G V G D Q S F

A G B B G F - V T F - L Q Q T

N T K Y K N V F Y E . A Q Z D U I Q Z

E K I G ' R V G X X F Y - T K L L I ?

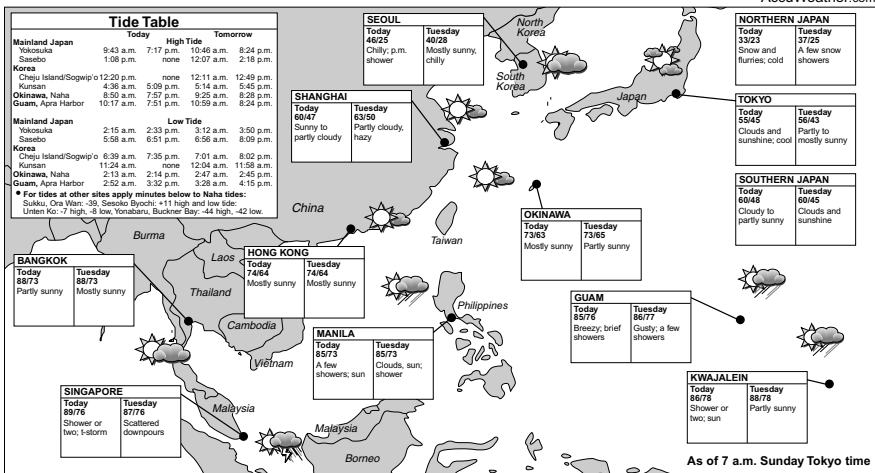
Saturday's Cryptoquip: WHEN A PODIATRIST TURNS AGAINST SOMEBODY, I SUPPOSE HE MIGHT BECOME AN ARCH ENEMY.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: L equals P

The Pacific Forecast

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AccuWeather.com



Extended Forecasts

TOKYO
 Wednesday: Mostly sunny, high 52, low 43.
 Thursday: Partly sunny, high 54, low 41.

KADENA
 Wednesday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 75, low 65.
 Thursday: Clouds and sunshine, high 75, low 67.

SEUL
 Wednesday: Mostly sunny, high 48, low 33.
 Thursday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 50, low 33.

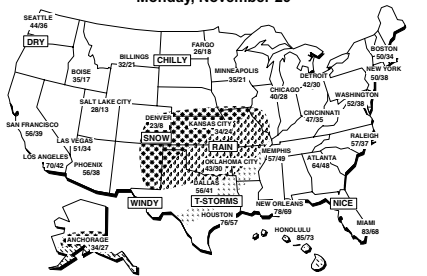
MANILA
 Wednesday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 87, low 75.
 Thursday: Clouds and sunshine, high 87, low 75.

HAGATNA
 Wednesday: Showers, high 86, low 77.
 Thursday: Partly sunny, high 88, low 79.

Saturday's USA Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Albuquerque	53/36	Los Angeles	62/48
Amarillo	50/36	Little Rock	62/36
Anchorage	41/34	Louisville	51/38
Ashville	44/34	Miami	83/68
Baltimore	54/48	Milwaukee	47/32
Birmingham	53/36	Nashville	52/39
Bismarck	35/14	New York	52/48
Boise	37/21	Omaha	40/20
Boston	49/43	Orlando	80/62
Brownsville	85/60	Philadelphia	55/48
Buffalo	54/46	Phoenix	70/50
Burlington	44/38	Pittsburgh	58/41
Charleston, SC	55/41	Portland, OR	45/31
Charlotte	52/42	Portland, ME	45/34
Cleveland	57/41	Salt Lake City	37/25
Columbus, OH	57/38	St. Louis	51/31
Duluth	32/21	San Antonio	73/44
El Paso	67/48	San Diego	63/53
Hartford	52/38	San Juan	85/74
Helena	30/17	Tampa	76/62
Indianapolis	49/34	Tulsa	57/30
Jacksonville	75/54	Washington	56/48
Kansas City	47/24	Wichita	50/30

Monday, November 29



U.S. Extended Forecast

Much of the East and West will be dry Monday, but a storm in Texas will bring rain and thunderstorms to the southern Plains and even some snow to parts of Kansas and the Texas Panhandle. This slow-moving storm will affect many of the same areas into Tuesday. In the Northwest, a cold front will bring rain to Seattle and Portland Tuesday. By Wednesday, some light rain will develop along a cold front in northern California. Meanwhile, a strong storm system moving from Texas to the mid-Atlantic will deliver heavy rain to the Southeast and mid-Atlantic. A bit of wintry weather is possible on the northwestern fringe of this system from the Great Lakes to the interior Northeast.

Monday's Pacific Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Bangkok	88/73	Iwakuni	61/45
Beijing	48/29	Kadena AB	73/63
Camp Casey	47/27	Kunsan AB	53/35
Diego Garcia	64/40	Kwajalein	86/78
Hagatna	86/78	Manila	85/73
Hanoi	74/61	Masawa AB	39/25
Hong Kong	74/64	Osan	48/27
Honolulu	85/73	Pusan	57/39

Monday's World Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Acapulco	90/74	Budapest	43/35	Kabul	52/28	Nairobi	77/51
Athens	61/51	Buenos Aires	84/67	Kiev	26/21	New Delhi	73/52
Auckland	46/25	Cairo	73/51	Kuwait	66/45	Oslo	29/26
Baghdad	64/41	Cancun	86/72	London	47/39	Paris	43/33
Barbados	89/76	Cape Town	75/53	Madrid	52/38	Rio de Janeiro	83/69
Barcelona	52/39	Geneva	41/36	Mexico City	77/50	Rome	59/47
Berlin	41/36	Islamabad	58/48	Montreal	40/25	St. Petersburg	21/14
Bermuda	74/53	Jerusalem	63/48	Mogadishu	81/68	Stockholm	31/25
Brussels	45/35	Johannesburg	87/63	Moscow	19/7	Warsaw	35/31



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SCOREBOARD

AFN-TV & Radio

Monday

AFN-Sports, 1 a.m.—NFL: ESPN Sunday Countdown.

AFN-Pacific/Korea, 2 a.m.—NFL: CBS The NFL Today.

AFN-Sports, 3 a.m.—NFL: San Diego at Kansas City.

AFN-Atlantic, AFN-Radio Okinawa/Korea, 3 a.m.—NFL: Jacksonville at Miami.

AFN-Pacific/Korea, 3 a.m.—NFL: Philadelphia at N.Y. Giants.

AFN-Sports, 3 a.m.—NFL: Buffalo at Seattle.

AFN-Atlantic, AFN-Radio Okinawa/Korea, 3 a.m.—NFL: Baltimore at Cleveland.

AFN-Pacific/Korea, 3 a.m.—NFL: New Orleans at Tampa Bay.

AFN-Atlantic, 9 a.m.—NFL: Tennessee at Houston (2).

AFN-Sports, 9:30 a.m.—NFL: ESPN NFL Prime Time.

AFN-Pacific/Korea, 10:30 a.m.—NFL: Oakland at Denver.

AFN-Sports, 3 p.m.—NFL: ESPN NFL Prime Time final.

AFN-Sports, 5:30 p.m.—Golf: Skins Game, Day 2 (2).

AFN-Sports, 11 p.m.—College football: Cincinnati at Louisville (1).

Tuesday

AFN-Sports, 2:30 a.m.—Golf: Shinhan Korea Championship, final round (2).

AFN-Sports, 9 a.m.—College basketball: Purdue at North Carolina State.

AFN-Atlantic, 5:30 a.m.—NFL: ESPN NFL Monday Night Countdown.

AFN-Atlantic, AFN-Radio Okinawa/Korea, 11 a.m.—NFL: St. Louis at Green Bay.

AFN-Pacific/Korea, 11 a.m.—College basketball: Illinois at Gonzaga (at Indianapolis) (1).

AFN-Sports, 9 p.m.—College basketball: Purdue vs. Cincinnati (at Indianapolis) (1).

All times Japan and Korea Standard Time; all listings are delayed broadcast. All listings are subject to change. Some radio broadcasts not available in all areas. Visit www.afn.af.mil for more information.

Pro football

NFL

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

	W	L	T	Pct	Pf	Pd
New England	7	1	0	.700	213	65
N.Y. Jets	7	1	0	.700	172	65
Buffalo	6	2	0	.600	180	163
Miami	1	9	0	.100	140	210

Indianapolis	3	0	7	.273	380	129
Tennessee	4	0	6	.400	166	181
Jacksonville	4	0	6	.400	182	181
Kansas City	4	0	6	.400	186	181

Pittsburgh	9	0	0	.900	240	161
Baltimore	7	1	0	.700	204	140
Cincinnati	4	0	6	.400	183	188
Cleveland	7	0	7	.500	208	198

Denver	7	0	7	.700	233	187
San Diego	7	0	7	.700	228	180
Oakland	7	0	7	.700	252	207
San Francisco	7	0	7	.700	276	205

	W	L	T	Pct	Pf	Pd
Philadelphia	5	1	0	.500	256	158
N.Y. Giants	5	1	0	.500	196	172
Washington	3	0	7	.300	188	178

Atlanta	2	0	7	.200	208	194
Tampa Bay	4	0	6	.400	192	182
Carolina	3	0	7	.300	196	182

Green Bay	6	4	0	.600	256	230
Minnesota	7	1	0	.700	266	198
Detroit	4	0	7	.364	257	202
Chicago	4	0	7	.364	172	211

Seattle	6	4	0	.600	230	185
San Francisco	4	0	7	.364	220	254
San Francisco	4	0	7	.364	177	216

Indianapolis	4	1	0	.444	217	214
Dallas, Texas	4	1	0	.444	217	214

Tennessee at Houston	7	0	0	.700	217	165
Washington at Pittsburgh	7	0	0	.700	217	165
Philadelphia at N.Y. Giants	7	0	0	.700	217	165
San Diego at Kansas City	7	0	0	.700	217	165
Tampa Bay at Carolina	7	0	0	.700	217	165
San Francisco at Seattle	7	0	0	.700	217	165
New Orleans at Atlanta	7	0	0	.700	217	165
San Francisco at Seattle	7	0	0	.700	217	165
N.Y. Jets at Arizona	7	0	0	.700	217	165
Miami at San Francisco	7	0	0	.700	217	165
Baltimore at New England	7	0	0	.700	217	165
Oakland at Denver	7	0	0	.700	217	165

St. Louis at Green Bay	7	0	0	.700	217	165
San Diego, Dec. 5	7	0	0	.700	217	165

Buffalo at Miami	7	0	0	.700	217	165
Houston at N.Y. Jets	7	0	0	.700	217	165
Minnesota at Chicago	7	0	0	.700	217	165
Tennessee at Indianapolis	7	0	0	.700	217	165
Cincinnati at Baltimore	7	0	0	.700	217	165
San Francisco at St. Louis	7	0	0	.700	217	165
Atlanta at Tampa Bay	7	0	0	.700	217	165

Carolina at New Orleans
New England at Cleveland
New York at San Diego
Kansas City at Oakland

St. Louis at Washington
Green Bay at Philadelphia
Pittsburgh at Philadelphia
Pittsburgh at Philadelphia

Monday, Dec. 6
Dallas at Seattle

College football

Division I-AA playoffs

First Round
Sept. 28, 1999
Furman 49, Jacksonville State 7
Maryland 26, St. John Fisher 19
James Madison 14, Lehigh 13
Sam Houston State 54, Western Kentucky 28

Second Round
Oct. 5, 1999
Montana 56, Northwestern State 7
Eastern Washington 33, Southern Illinois 13
Delaware 28, Lafayette 14
New Hampshire (9-2) at Georgia Southern (9-2)

Division II playoffs
Saturday, Nov. 27

West Chester (10-1) at East Stroudsburg (10-1)
Northwestern Missouri State (11-1) at Pittsburg State (12-9)
Valdosta State (12-1) at Albany State, Ga. (11-0)

Grand Valley State (10-2) at North Dakota (12-2)
Division III playoffs
Saturday, Nov. 27

Rowan, N.J., 45, Hobart, N.Y. 14
Delaware Valley 26, St. John Fisher, N.Y. 20
Washington & Jefferson, Pa. 24, Christopher Newport, Va. 14
Mount Union, Ohio 27, Wheaton, Ill. 6
Carthage, Mo., 45, Kean, N.J. 10

Marion-Hardin 42, Hardin-Simmons 21
Occidental, Calif. 42, Concordia-Moorhead 40
Linfield, Ore. 52, Wisconsin-La Crosse 14

NIAA playoffs
Quarterfinals
Saturday, Nov. 27

St. Francis, Ia., 45, Hastings, Neb. 14
Midland, N.Y. 52, Nazareth 37
St. Francis, Ia., 45, Hastings, Neb. 14
Midland, N.Y. 52, Nazareth 37

Carroll, Mo. (8-2) at Dickinson State (9-1)
St. Francis, Ia. (11-1) at Sioux Falls (10-1)

College basketball

AP Men's Top 25

Saturday
1. Wake Forest (5-0) did not play. Next: at No. 5 Illinois, Wednesday.
2. Kansas (0-0) did not play. Next: at Nevada, Monday.
3. Georgetown (3-0) did not play. Next: at Michigan, Tuesday.

4. Syracuse (5-0) beat Siena 79-56. Next: vs. St. Bonaventure, Wednesday.
5. Illinois (4-0) at No. 24 Gonzaga 89-72. Next: vs. No. 1 Wake Forest, Wednesday.

6. Oklahoma State (2-0) vs. San Diego State. Next: at Southern Methodist, Monday.
7. Connecticut (3-0) did not play. Next: vs. Florida International, Tuesday.
8. Kentucky (0-0) did not play. Next: vs. Tennessee Tech, Wednesday.

9. Duke (2-0) vs. North Carolina Greensboro. Next: vs. No. 10 Michigan State, Tuesday.
10. Michigan State (3-0) beat North Carolina State 102-52. Next: at No. 9 Duke, Tuesday.

11. North Carolina (0-0) did not play. Next: vs. Southern California, Sunday.
12. North Carolina (0-0) did not play. Next: at Lafayette, Saturday.

13. Maryland (3-0) did not play. Next: at No. 12 Wisconsin, Tuesday.
14. Mississippi State (5-1) did not play. Next: vs. St. Francis, Monday.
15. Texas (0-1) did not play. Next: vs. Coppin State, Monday.

16. Pittsburgh (2-0) vs. Loyola, Md. Next: vs. St. Francis, Monday.
17. North Carolina State (4-0) did not play. Next: at Louisiana State, Monday.

18. Arizona (3-0) did not play. Next: vs. Wyoming, Monday.
19. Alabama (2-0) at No. 22 Washington, Tuesday. Next: East Tennessee State, Wednesday.

TANK McNAMARA

THE WEEK AFTER THE "DESPERATE HOUSEWIVES" INTRO, LEVITAN AND VARGA BOUGHT TWO EXTRA 30-SECOND SPOTS EACH!

WE INCREASED OUR AUDIENCE OF BOYS 12+ BY 0.7 PERCENT OVER OUR PREVIOUS WEEK!

WHO SAYS "MONEY NIGHT" ISN'T A FUN SHOW?

APPROXIMATELY A NAKED WOMAN JUMPING ON A HORSE.

WE'VE BEEN APPROVED BY THE FCC FOR OUR CURSIVE RANTS AND DISFUNCTION.

20. Wisconsin (2-0) at Pepperdine. Next: vs. No. 13 Maryland, Tuesday.
21. Notre Dame (3-0) did not play. Next: at Michigan, Saturday.

Next: at No. 24 Gonzaga, Wednesday.
22. Florida (2-0) vs. Providence. Next: vs. Florida A&M, Tuesday.
23. Florida (2-0) vs. Providence. Next: vs. Florida A&M, Tuesday.

24. Memphis (4-2) did not play. Next: at Purdue, Friday.

Saturday's men's scores

EAST
Baruch 102, Mount St. Vincent 80
St. Francis 88, Holy Cross 59
Coast Guard 68, Albertus Magnus 64
Colby 70, Juniata 47
Harvard 85, Northeastern 75
Phillips 78, Middlebury 64
Princeton 48, Lafayette 38
Rider 78, Drew 71
St. Joseph's, L.I. 65, Hartwick 39
Stony Brook 77, Columbia 73
Syracuse 78, Siena 58
Wagner 66, Albany, N.Y. 63

SOUTH
Auburn 79, Louisiana Tech 77
Birmingham-Southern 113, Tenn. Wesleyan 61
Emory 90, Washington & Lee 77
Georgetown, Ky. 102, Strayer 78
Georgia Southern 12, Breckner Park 59
Louisiana-Lafayette 75, Rice 61

FAR WEST
Malone 99, Flagler 88
Pain Beach Atlantic 88, Wesley 68
Quinnipiac 88, Longwood 62
Columbia 78, Louisiana-Monroe 62
Texas 65, Alcorn 51
Longwood 78, Louisiana-Monroe 62
Longwood 78, Louisiana-Monroe 62
West Virginia 84, 49
Wofford 50, Bluefield 57

MIDWEST
Adrian 85, Youngstown 55
Bowling Green 81, Bradley 65
Cleveland 81, Miami 60
Cedarville 94, St. Francis, Ill. 84
Central Michigan 79, Saginaw Valley 59
Cincinnati 79, Purdue 58
Cleveland 81, Youngstown 55
Dayton 55, Coppel 51
Detroit 81, Youngstown 55

WEST
Franklin 81, Gonzaga 77
Illinois 81, St. Martin 51
Kansas 52, 52
Michigan 102, Nichols 51
Illinois 84, DePaul 69
Michigan 102, Nichols 51
St. Francis, Ill. 84, DePaul 69

SOUTHWEST
Arkansas 79, Gardner-Webb 54
Idaho 100, Shawnee 54
New Mexico 81, N. Arizona 70
New Mexico 81, N. Arizona 70

PAISLEY
Carrs/Safetyway Great Alaska Shootout
Seventh Place
Alaska-Anchorage 66, High Point 65
Las Vegas Holiday Inn
Seventh Place
CS Northridge 63, Jackson 51

Friday's men's scores
EAST
Albright 62, Gallaudet 55
Bates 75, John Jay 53
Boston College 79, Clemson 70
Concord 90, Bluefield 87
Delaware Tech 101, St. Mary's, Md. 49
Georgetown 69, The Citadel 34
Maine 47, Rhode Island 44
Maryland 84, Memphis 61
New York 82, Mount Union 59
Vermont 50, Marist 70
W. Virginia 81, Mount Olive 84

SOUTH
Ala.-Huntsville 51, LeMoyne-Owen 50
Ala.-Huntsville 51, LeMoyne-Owen 50
Cabrini 58, Roanoke 57
Christendom 50, Maine-Presque Isle 57
Fairleigh 81, Freed-Hardeman 65
Florida International 70, Florida A&M 45
Florida International 70, Florida A&M 45
Georgia Tech 79, Ark.-Little Rock 84
Kentucky 79, Ark.-Little Rock 84

FAR WEST
Ala.-Huntsville 51, LeMoyne-Owen 50
Cabrini 58, Roanoke 57
Christendom 50, Maine-Presque Isle 57
Fairleigh 81, Freed-Hardeman 65
Florida International 70, Florida A&M 45
Florida International 70, Florida A&M 45
Georgia Tech 79, Ark.-Little Rock 84
Kentucky 79, Ark.-Little Rock 84

PAISLEY
Carrs/Safetyway Great Alaska Shootout
Seventh Place
Alaska-Anchorage 66, High Point 65
Las Vegas Holiday Inn
Seventh Place
CS Northridge 63, Jackson 51

Friday
1. Tennessee (3-0) did not play. Next: vs. Temple, Sunday.
2. LSU (4-0) at No. 22 Maryland 64-51. Next: vs. Colorado at Boulder, Colo., Saturday.

3. Georgia (3-0) beat Idaho 75-55. Next: at Tulane, Saturday.
4. Texas (2-1) did not play. Next: at UCLA, Sunday.

5. North Carolina (2-0) did not play. Next: at No. 20 Villanova at Las Vegas, Saturday.
6. Notre Dame (6-0) beat South Carolina 60-56. Next: at Valparaiso, Tuesday.

7. Stanford (4-0) did not play. Next: vs. No. 12 Texas Tech, Sunday.
8. Baylor (1-1) beat Houston State 84-53. Next: vs. No. 16 Kansas State at Bahamas, Sunday.

9. Rutgers (3-0) beat Oregon State 77-53. Next: vs. Kentucky at US Virgin Islands, Saturday.
10. Minnesota (3-0) did not play. Next: at Connecticut, Sunday.

11. Boston College (2-1) did not play. Next: at DePaul College, Sunday.
12. Oklahoma (3-0) beat Iowa 85-64. Next: at Oklahoma State (2-0) at No. 28 LSU 64-51. Next: vs. No. 10 Duke at Bahamas, Saturday.

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Record 200th straight start is just another day for Favre

Packers QB focused on beating St. Louis

By ARNIE STAPLETON

The Associated Press

GREEN BAY, Wis. — Brett Favre, who starts his 200th straight regular-season game Monday night against the St. Louis Rams, always figured he'd be a major league baseball player growing up.

"That was my better sport," confessed the Green Bay Packers' star quarterback, who went to Southern Mississippi to play both football and baseball, but hung up his glove for good after winning the starting quarterback job as a freshman.

He didn't want to miss spring football practice and give somebody else a chance to steal his starting job.

It's the same novel mixture of fear and fortitude that drives him to this day.

The three-time MVP who shows no signs of slowing down at age 35 as he closes in on just about every quarterback record he doesn't already own, is as celebrated for his practice habits as Michael Jordan was in his heyday.

Favre used to say earlier in his career that he was simply driven by dread — he didn't want to be benched.

"Well, I don't know if I've ever completely put it behind me," Favre said. "Obviously, I'm more at ease with my position here, but I don't think a player can ever be completely settled in because you're always replaceable. There's always some guy, some young guy, at some point, who is there to take your spot."

No matter how good you are.

"It happened with Joe Montana, it happened with Jerry Rice, it happened with Emmitt Smith and so on," Favre said. "And I think it's a good thing to always look over your shoulder."

That way, Favre never becomes what he loathes: cocky or complacent.

So what does his latest milestone mean to Favre, whose record streak will actually reach 219 consecutive games when you include the playoffs, almost 100 more than Ron Jaworski's old mark of 123? It's just another game.

"Well, yeah, it means a lot. But I treat this game no differently than I treated other games," Favre said. "The fact that I'm still here and playing I think speaks for itself. And, you know, I'm fortunate in a lot of ways to be able to do this and to overcome injuries, adversity and still play at a high enough level that the Packers still want me around does mean something."

Thing is, he's felt that way about most every other start since taking over for Don Majkowski on Sept. 27, 1992.

Since then, 11 of his backups have gone on to start for another team, and last week, Eli Manning became the 178th quarterback to have started a game in the NFL since Favre came out of the bench.

The Chicago Bears have had 18 quarterbacks during Favre's starting streak. Cal Ripken Jr. and Lou Gehrig were the only other athletes in major American sports history to start every game for their teams over a span of at least a dozen years.

"Well, each game that I start is an accomplishment," Favre said. "It kind of puts in perspective how difficult it is to do this job, and 200 is in some ways a lot different than 100 or the first start. But I wouldn't say it ranks any higher than my first start. I treat this as just another game and I know it's been a long time, a lot of games, a lot of consecutive starts. I'm aware of that. But it's just another game that we need to win."

Both the Rams (5-5) and the Packers (6-4), perennial playoff teams, need a strong finish to reach the



Green Bay Packers quarterback Brett Favre throws a pass against the Houston Texans last week in Houston. Favre will make his 200th consecutive regular-season start against the Rams on Monday.

postseason. And they're seemingly headed in opposite directions.

The Packers have won five straight, the last two on last-second field goals by Ryan Longwell, in their quest to become just the ninth team in league history to reach the playoffs after starting 1-4. The Rams have dropped three of their last four.

"The good news is we're still in the playoff hunt," Rams quarterback Mark Bulger said. "I don't know if that's a good thing as far as parity or if it's a bad thing that we're not playing very well. Either way, I know we're not playing as well as we can and we know it's going to be tough with how well Green Bay is playing right now."

St. Louis ranks 29th in the league against the run, but the Rams could be catching a big break: The Packers are banged up in the backfield with Ahman Green (ribs), Najeh Davenport (hamstrings), Nick Luchey (shoulder) and Walt Williams (ankle) all hurt. They signed James Jackson, cut by Cleveland two weeks ago, and forced-few him the offense last week, when he split snaps with third-down back Tony Fisher.

Although Favre threw 30 times for 383 yards in leading the Packers to a 16-13 victory at Houston last week, Green Bay knows that type of imbalance won't work against the Rams and their stout secondary.

"This is the time we need to have our ground game be strong," Packers offensive coordinator Tom Rossley said. "Last year at this time we really started running the ball well. I still think we can get that done. It's just who's going to be doing the running?"

Who knows? One thing is certain: Favre will be under center, as usual — glancing over his shoulder, as always.

Myskina rallies Russia vs. France in Fed Cup

The Associated Press

MOSCOW — French Open champion Anastasia Myskina pulled Russia into a 1-1 tie with defending champion France in the Fed Cup final on Saturday as U.S. Open winner Svetlana Kuznetsova lost the first singles match.

Nathalie Dechy gave France a big lift in the opener of the best-of-five series by defeating Kuznetsova 3-6, 7-6 (7-4), 8-6.

Myskina then made sure Russia, bidding for its first Fed Cup title in its fifth trip to the final, didn't entirely squander the first day, beating Moscow-born teenage Tatiana Golovin 6-4, 7-6 (7-5) at Krylatskoye Ice Palace.

A's officially complete trade with Pirates for Kendall

PITTSBURGH — Jason Kendall was traded Saturday from Pittsburgh to Oakland, giving the Athletics one of baseball's best top-of-the-lineup hitters and most durable catchers and partly freeing the Pirates of their biggest financial burden.

The Pirates got left-hander Mark Redman to stabilize their off-shaky rotation and left-handed reliever Arthur Rhodes for Kendall, a three-time All-Star and .306 career hitter.

It's the first career move for the 30-year-old Kendall after nine losing seasons with the Pirates. The Athletics credit him mostly for his career .387 on-base average — third-best all-time among catchers with 1,000 or more career games caught — though he has only 12 homers in three seasons since leaving a thumb ligament.

Australia's Scott pockets \$50,000 in Skins Game

LA QUINTA, Calif. — Australia's Adam Scott won \$50,000 and two skins on the second hole Sat-

Sports briefs

urday, then he and the more famous members of the foursome — Tiger Woods, Annika Sorenstam and Fred Couples — left \$250,000 out on the golf course during the next seven holes of the made-for-TV tournament.

That means the first hole on Sunday — when it could be cold and windy at Trilogy Golf Club — will be worth eight skins and \$300,000. The four will be playing for a total of \$950,000 in the final nine holes.

Sorenstam struggled most of the first eight holes in her second Merrill Lynch Skins Game before making the shot that kept Scott from sweeping the first-day skins.

Dodd leads China Open

SHANGHAI, China — Welshman Stephen Dodd shot a 2-under 70 on Saturday to hang onto the lead after the third round of the China Open and keep alive his chances of a first-ever European Tour victory.

Dodd overcame a triple-bogey with five birdies to move to 8-under 208.

Denmark's Thomas Bjorn (68) and Soren Hansen (72) share second at 211 and Bradley Dregiele of Wales was at 212 after a 70.

Jimenez leads in Korea

SEOUL, South Korea — Spain's Miguel Angel Jimenez fired a 3-under 69 on Saturday to take a one-stroke lead after the third round of the Korea Golf Championship.

Jimenez, coming off a four-victory season on the European tour, had six birdies against three bogeys to finish at 2-under 214, one stroke ahead of American Aron Oberholzer, who shot 70.


American Brian Bateman (73) and South Korea's Kebin Na (72) were at 216.




St. Louis Rams at Green Bay Packers

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Syracuse gives BC shove out Big East door

Eagles routed in finale, miss out on BCS bowl

BY JIMMY GOLEN

The Associated Press

BOSTON — Diamond Ferri ran for 141 yards two touchdowns and scored again on an interception Saturday as Syracuse rolled to a 43-17 victory over No. 17 Boston College to deprive the Eagles of a Bowl Championship Series berth and a farewell outright Big East title.

BC needed a victory for its first championship in a league that has been depleted by the defections of Miami and Virginia Tech to the Atlantic Coast Conference. The Eagles will join them next year but Syracuse, which flirted with the ACC before being bypassed, made sure that they left on a sour note.

Damien Rhodes ran for a 69-yard touchdown on the game's first play from scrimmage and 107 yards in all for Syracuse (6-5, 4-2 Big East) before leaving with a leg injury. That pressed Ferri, a third-teamer behind Rhodes and the injured Walter Reyes, into the lead role.

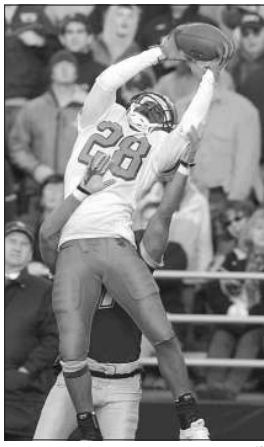
The win elevated the Orangemen into a four-way tie for BC (8-3, 4-2), Pittsburgh and West Virginia for the first place in the conference.

Pitt would earn the BCS berth and a possible Fiesta Bowl matchup against Utah with a victory over South Florida next week. BC will go to its sixth consecutive bowl game, but it will be a second- or third-tier event like the Insight or Gator.

Perry Patterson was 9-for-16 for 88 yards, adding 48 yards rushing and a touchdown in what could be coach Paul Pasqualoni's last game at Syracuse.

Pasqualoni lost a staunch ally when athletic director Jack Crouthamel announced that he will retire; Crouthamel hired Pasqualoni to replace Dick McPherson in 1991 and has defended his coach the past two seasons.

Saturday's win helped him avoid a third consecutive year without a winning record. Pasqualoni, who has a year remaining on his contract, followed 11 consecutive winning seasons by going 4-8 in 2002 and 6-6 last year.



Syracuse's Taron Jackson (28) intercepts a pass meant for Boston College's Joel Hazard, back during Saturday's game in Boston. Syracuse won 43-17.

BC was playing without quarterback Paul Peterson, who broke his right hand in last week's victory over Temple. Freshman Matt Ryan was 24-for-51 for 200 yards with three interceptions and several early dropped passes as BC mustered little offense to fall behind 24-3 before scoring on a blocked punt in the final minute of the first half.

BC was going nowhere when coach Tom O'Brien rushed 11 men on a Syracuse punt with 31 seconds left in the half. Brian Toal blocked the kick and DeJuan Tribble picked up the bouncing ball and ran it 29 yards for the touchdown to make it 24-10.

But the Eagles couldn't build on their good fortune.

Despite a 39-yard kickoff return that put BC at its 44 to start the second half, the Eagles got only as far as fielded and punted the ball back. Collin Barker kicked a 42-yard field goal to make it 27-10 and — after Anthony Smith's interception gave Syracuse the ball at the BC 23 — kicked from 35 yards to make it a 20-point game.

Kentucky puts scare into No. 15 Tennessee

BY ELIZABETH A. DAVIS

The Associated Press

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. — Tennessee coach Phillip Fulmer was — in a word — relieved.

With an appearance in the Southeastern Conference title game already wrapped up, the No. 15 Volunteers rallied with two touchdowns in the fourth quarter to avoid an embarrassing loss and beat Kentucky 37-31 on Saturday.

And while a field goal would have given Tennessee the lead in the final minute, the Vols didn't want to risk it after Kentucky had already blocked two kicks.

Gerald Riggs finally put Tennessee ahead to stay with a 12-yard touchdown run with 38 seconds remaining.

"Really relieved," Fulmer said. "I love each and every one of these guys, but they are making an old man out of me and the rest of the staff."

Kentucky (2-9, 1-7) lost its 20th straight game to Tennessee,

though the Vols' defense had another lackluster effort in its regular-season finale.

On a cold rainy day, the Vols (9-2, 7-1) found themselves down 31-22 in the fourth quarter to one of the worst offenses in the country.

A trick play helped start the comeback. Rick Clausen tossed the ball to C.J. Foyton, who completed a 53-yard pass to Robert Meacham at the Kentucky 12. Tony Brown scored on a 12-yard touchdown pass from Clausen two plays later.

Clausen was intercepted on Tennessee's next possession, but Kentucky could not take advantage and had to settle for a field goal. The Vols got the ball back at their 40 with about 4½ minutes left and trailing 31-29.

They marched into field-goal range, but with Kentucky's Lionel Dewart having blocked an extra-point kick and a field goal earlier in the game, Tennessee passed up a chance to let the kicker try to win it.

Louisville rips Cincinnati, walks off with C-USA title

The Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Montrell Jones returned two touchdowns and earned a punt for a score, and No. 7 Louisville clinched its third Conference USA championship since 2000 with a 70-7 rout of Cincinnati on Saturday.

Brandon Johnson returned a blocked punt for a touchdown and Tiger Jones recovered another blocked punt in the end zone for Louisville (9-1, 7-0), which reached 70 points for the first time since a 72-0 win over Wayne State in 1955.

The Cardinals' top-ranked of-

fense was unfazed by gusty winds and steady rain, piling up 357 rushing yards and 491 total yards. Eric Shelton rushed for 158 yards and Kolby Smith had three short touchdowns, runs in Louisville's fifth game with at least 50 points this season.

Cincinnati (6-5, 5-3), which had a four-game winning streak snapped, mustered only 186 yards with senior quarterback Gino Guidigli, who sat out after breaking a bone in his throwing hand last weekend.

After the game, the Cardinals accepted the league champion's automatic bid to the Liberty Bowl.

Missouri boots Iowa State out of Big 12 title game

The Associated Press

AMES, Iowa — Adam Crosssett kicked Iowa State out of the Big 12 championship game.

Crosssett's 25-yard field goal in overtime, the first of his college career, gave Missouri a 17-14 victory over the lead and A.J. Kincaid's interception

preserved a 17-14 victory for the beleaguered Tigers on Saturday.

Missouri (5-6, 3-5 Big 12) salvaged a sweet ending to a disappointing season by breaking a five-game losing streak and keeping Iowa State (6-5, 4-4) from winning the Big 12 North outright.

The Cyclones tied Colorado for first, but Colorado advances to next Saturday's conference title game against No. 2 Oklahoma in Kansas City because it beat Iowa State.

Iowa State, which last won a football championship in 1912, had a chance to win it in regulation. But Bret Culbertson was wide right on a 24-yard field goal attempt with 1:02 left, leaving the crowd of 40,626 in a gloomy silence.

Missouri got the ball first in overtime

and drove to the Iowa State 7. Coach Gary Pinkel then summoned Crosssett, a freshman who took over the place-kicking job only a week ago and had been 0-for-2 on field goals.

But he split the uprisings from the left hash mark, putting the pressure on Iowa State.

On the Cyclones' first play, tight end Ben Berkema sneaked into the secondary and was wide open at the 7, but Bret Meyer threw the ball behind him and Berkema couldn't hold on.

Iowa State still made a remarkable turnaround after going 2-10 last season and is expected to play in a bowl game for the fourth time in five years.

Missouri's Brad Smith carried 21 times for 101 yards, including a 36-yard touchdown run, and completed 13 of 24 passes for 150 yards with one interception.

N.C. State 52, East Carolina 14: At Charlotte, N.C., Jay Davis threw three

touchdown passes and the Wolfpack allowed only 140 yards, spoiling the final game for Pirates' coach John Thompson.

Thompson resigned last week — effective at the end of the season — after athletic director Terry Holland told him he was going to be fired. In two years, Thompson was 3-20.

N.C. State (5-6) blocked a punt for a score, returned an onside kick for another and had an interception return for a TD nullified by an inadvertent whistle.

East Carolina (2-9) played most of the game without starting quarterback James Pinkney, who left in the first quarter with a sprained knee.

Mississippi 20, Mississippi State 3: At Oxford, Miss., Ole Miss backup quarterback Robert Lane had 205 total yards with a touchdown pass and a touchdown run. Lane was 10-for-17 passing for 108 yards and rushed for 97 yards for the Rebels (4-7, 3-5 Southeastern Conference), who won the Battle for the Golden Egg for the third straight year and snapped a four-game losing streak.

In the process, the redshirt freshman may have staked a claim to the starting job next year.

College football roundup



Bode Miller of the United States gets a victory ride on the shoulders of second-place finisher Antoine Deneriaz of France, at left, and third-place Michael Walchhofer of Austria after winning Saturday's downhill at Lake Louise, Alberta.

Miller surprises top downhillers

The Associated Press

LAKE LOUISE, Alberta — American Bode Miller took a giant step toward the most coveted title in ski racing on Saturday by beating the World Cup top downhillers at their own game.

Miller, the defending World Cup giant slalom champion, pulled a stunner by winning the season-opening downhill, leaving behind the likes of teammate Daron Rahal, the top-ranked downhiller in the world, and Austrian superstar Hermann Maier, the defending overall champion.

"It means all the pieces came together today," said Miller, who has competed in every race on the World Cup calendar the last two years. "There's a lot of pieces that have to come together to win a downhill. Even more pieces have to come together to be a second ahead."

Miller rocketed down the 2,464-meter Men's Olympic Downhill track in 1 minute, 42.75 seconds, a healthy 97 seconds ahead of Frenchman Antoine Deneriaz and 1.17 better than third-place Michael Walchhofer of Austria.

Rahal was fifth, 1.31 back and 43 better than Maier in sixth.

Miller, a slalom and GS specialist, is focusing on improving in the speed events of downhill and super giant slalom as part of his bid to become the first American man since Phil Mahre in 1983 to win the overall title.

The race course of man-made snow stood in stark contrast to the rest of an otherwise brown mountain. The race was contested under sun and a bright blue sky.

The first super-G of the season was scheduled Sunday.

Kostelic scores comeback victory

ASPEN, Colo. — Croatia's Janica Kostelic crossed the finish line, raised her arms and slammed her pole into the snow.

After what she's been through over the past two years, it's hard to blame her for getting so excited.

Kostelic won her first World Cup race in nearly two years, charging through steady snow and choppy conditions to beat Sweden's Anja Paerson by more than a second Saturday in this season's first World Cup slalom.

"It's been a long year," Kostelic said. "The World Cup is the best test for it and today was a big test for me."

Kostelic was the world's best female skier before being beset by injuries the past two years. A two-time World Cup overall champion and the only Alpine skier to win four medals in one Olympic Games — three golds, one silver at Salt Lake City in 2002 — Kostelic had four knee operations in five months in 2003 and had to have her thyroid gland removed, causing her to miss all of last season.

Kostelic returned after a 19-month lay-off to finish eighth in the World Cup opener in Austria on Oct. 23 and was third in the giant slalom Friday in Aspen.

Though shaky on her first run through heavy snow Saturday, Kostelic still finished only .05 seconds behind Tanja Poutiainen of Finland, the winner of Friday's race. The conditions weren't any better for the second run, but it didn't seem to bother Kostelic.

Blasting through choppy spots on the Aspen Mountain course, she was nearly flawless on her second run. Kostelic finished the two runs in 1 minute, 43.7 seconds, beating Paerson by 1.27 seconds in just her third race back.

"I don't know what I was doing in the first run," Kostelic said. "I was fighting something and I don't know what it was, demons or whatever. I was sking thinking 'What are you doing?' and I had no idea how to improve that. The second run, I basically wanted to stay without the mistakes and I did."

Paerson, the reigning World Cup overall, slalom and giant slalom champion, used a wild run to take the lead before Kostelic's final trip down the mountain.

Denied a victory, Paerson nonetheless gained 80 points for finishing second and increased her overall point total to 260 after three events. Poutiainen has 240 points after finishing third Saturday. Kostelic has 192.

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Illinois spans Gonzaga; Wake Forest next

The Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — After three straight blowouts, No. 5 Illinois was looking forward to its first real test Saturday against No. 24 Gonzaga.

Now it looks like the Illini will have to wait until top-ranked Wake Forest comes to Champaign, Ill., on Wednesday.

Deron Williams and Luther Head each scored 20 points to lead Illinois to an 89-72 victory over Gonzaga in the John Wooden Tradition game.

The Illini (4-0) set the tone from the opening tip, using superior three-point shooting and suffocating defense to dominate the Bulldogs (3-1) and set up an early season showdown with the Demon Deacons next week. Wake Forest comes in having won the Preseason NIT title to cap its first-ever week as the nation's top-ranked team.

"We just came out and tried to make a statement, show we're for real," Williams said.

The Illini certainly did. Illinois made 14 of 28 three-pointers and scored 29 points off 19 Gonzaga turnovers to turn the game into a rout in the first five minutes.

"We were thoroughly dominated today, in every phase of the game," Bulldogs coach Mark Few said. "There were times it didn't appear we belonged out there on the court."

Adam Morrison led Gonzaga with 26 points and 11 rebounds and Ronny Turiaf had 12 points and nine rebounds.

Williams got the Illini started on an 11-0 run early in the first half and didn't look back. Illinois forced seven turnovers in the first five minutes, which led to 14 points and an 18-4 advantage.

Gonzaga's game plan going in was to get the ball down low to Turiaf, a senior who was coming off a career-high 40 points in a victory over Idaho on Wednesday. But every time Turiaf touched the ball he was immediately surrounded by two or three Illinois players, forcing him to pass out of the key.

A three-pointer by Williams, a layup by



Illinois guards Luther Head, left, and Dee Brown, middle, whoop it up with center Jack Ingram during the first half of the Illini's 89-72 rout of No. 24 Gonzaga on Saturday.

Roger Powell and a layup by Head at the buzzer produced a 58-27 halftime lead that turned the second half into garbage time.

In Saturday's other games:

No. 4 Syracuse 78, Siena 56: At Albany, N.Y., Gerry McNamara scored 29 points and Hakim Warrick grabbed 15 rebounds to lead Syracuse (5-0), which won its 29th straight against in-state opponents. Siena (0-5), meanwhile, has the worst season-opening record in school history.

Warrick and Josh Pace each scored 30 points for Syracuse, which held Siena to 32 percent shooting and outrebounded the Saints 54-29.

No. 10 Michigan St. 102, Nicholls St. 52: At East Lansing, Mich., led by Maurice Ager's 19 points, Michigan State scored more than 100 points for the third straight game. Kelvin Torbert added 16 points, Shannon Brown and Alan Anderson

had 15 apiece and Paul Davis had 11 for the Spartans (3-0).

Michigan State will take a 103.3-point scoring average into Tuesday's game at No. 9 Duke in the ACC/Big Ten Challenge.

In Friday's games:

No. 1 Wake Forest 63, No. 18 Arizona 60: In New York, Justin Gray had 21 points in picking up the slack for Chris Paul, his backcourt mate and the leading vote-getter on the AP preseason All-America team, who struggled with just four points on 2-of-11 shooting.

"I felt like teams were gunning for us last season," Paul said when asked about facing opponents as a top-ranked team. "We still have a long way to go in terms of being a national powerhouse."

In looking ahead to Wednesday night's game at Illinois, coach Skip Prosser said Wake Forest is "trying to be a bit of a na-

tional team, and so you have to play a national schedule. I don't know if I'll do that ad infinitum because it could become as nauseam and I don't want that."

Gray, who also had 21 points in the semifinals against Providence, was selected the tournament MVP. He received five stitches over his right eye in the first half against Providence and he was kicked near the same spot against Arizona.

"I don't get wrapped up in MVPs and things like that. I'm happy for our team," Prosser said. "But he has a courage that's contagious."

No. 8 Kentucky 77, Georgia State 59: At Lexington, Ky., Chuck Hayes and Keleno Auzubike each had 16 points and nine rebounds for Kentucky (3-0). Marcus Brown led the Panthers (1-2) with 16 points.

No. 13 Maryland 84, No. 25 Memphis 61: At Springfield, Mass., John Gilchrist had 16 points and 10 rebounds and Nik Cacer-Medley had 15 points for Maryland (3-0). Rodney Carney scored 23 for Memphis (4-2).

No. 17 N.C. State 99, Campbell 44: At Raleigh, N.C., Cameron Bennerman scored 20 points in North Carolina State's fourth straight lopsided victory. Diago Aguilar scored 16 points for the Fighting Camels (1-2).

No. 19 Alabama 78, Minnesota 72: At Anchorage, Alaska, Earnest Shelton made five three-pointers and scored 29 points to lead Alabama (3-0) past Minnesota (2-1) in the semifinals of the Great Alaska Shootout. The Crimson Tide play No. 22 Washington in the championship game Saturday.

No. 21 Notre Dame 54, Charleston Southern 38: At South Bend, Ind., Chris Quinn scored 14 of his 17 points in the second half and Notre Dame (3-0) held Charleston Southern (1-2) to 16 points in the second half.

No. 22 Washington 96, Oklahoma 91: At Anchorage, Alaska, Nate Robinson scored 19 points and had eight assists, leading Washington (3-0) past Oklahoma (2-1) and into the championship of the Great Alaska Shootout.

Injury ruins Georgia Tech victory over Ark.-L.R.

By PAUL NEWBERY

The Associated Press

ATLANTA — A gruesome injury ruined the night for No. 3 Georgia Tech.

The Yellow Jackets lost one of their most promising players when freshman Jeremis Smith dislocated his right kneecap in the closing minutes of a 79-54 victory over Arkansas-Little Rock on Friday night.

"I've never experienced something like that," freshman Anthony Morrow said. "I couldn't even look at his mom (sitting in the stands). I was almost teary-eyed."

B.J. Elder scored 23 points and Georgia Tech (3-0) was never threatened after starting the game with a 23-2 run.

The injury to Smith cast a pall over the victory. With just 1:24 remaining and Georgia Tech leading 77-52, Jack Wright drove toward the basket for Arkansas-Little Rock.

Wright moved over, trying to take the charge, but landed awkwardly on his right knee and collapsed to the court.

A hush fell over the crowd



Georgia Tech's Jeremis Smith screams in pain after dislocating his right kneecap late in Friday night's game.

when the youngster screamed in agony.

A wheelchair was brought on the court, but Smith was unable to get off the floor. Finally, four teammates came out to lift him onto a stretcher and Smith was wheeled away as a trainer held

the grotesquely distorted knee.

"I can't explain it," Elder said. "It was like his knee was completely turned around on the side. That's something I've never seen before."

Smith was taken to a hospital for X-rays, which provided a bit

of good news: There was no other damage to the knee. He was being kept overnight and will undergo more tests on Monday.

Even in the best-case scenario, the injury would be similar to the one sustained by another Georgia Tech player, Theodis Tarver, be-

fore last season. He was out for 2½ months and didn't fully recover until this summer.

"You never want to see this happen to anyone, but especially to someone who works as hard as Jeremis does and loves to play as much as he does," coach Paul Hewitt said. "We've got to think about his long-term recovery. As far as our team is concerned, we'll be fine."

The Yellow Jackets had an easy time after struggling to a 60-59 victory at Illinois-Chicago on Monday.

Arkansas-Little Rock (1-2) missed 11 of its first 12 shots and had five turnovers while Georgia Tech was pulling away. The Trojans shot just 29 percent in the first half, trailed 38-21 at the break and got no closer than 13 in the second half.

After Brandon Freeman's jumper pulled the Trojans to 5-2, the Yellow Jackets scored 18 in a row. Isma'il Muhammad was unstoppable on the inside, scoring seven points, and Elder, Morrow and Jarrett Jack chipped in with three-pointers.

SPORTS



Knicks put it all together
in beating Raptors, Page 31

Hokies cling to BCS hopes



Virginia Tech wide receiver Michael McGrew (80) holds on after a catch as Virginia Tech defender Vincent Fuller (8) makes the tackle during the first half of Saturday's game in Blacksburg, Va. Virginia Tech beat the Cavaliers 24-10, and can claim a BCS berth with a victory over ACC rival Miami next week.

Win over rival Virginia sets up ACC showdown with 9th-ranked Miami

BY HANK KURZ JR.

The Associated Press

BLACKSBURG, Va. — Bryan Randall threw two second-half touchdown passes and No. 11 Virginia Tech moved one victory away from the Atlantic Coast Conference title Saturday with a 24-10 victory over No. 16 Virginia.

The Hokies (9-2, 6-1) can win the league title and the Bowl Championship Series berth that goes with it by winning next week at No. 9 Miami, the team that moved from the Big East to the ACC with Virginia Tech this season.

The Hokies also deprived Virginia (8-3, 5-3) of a share of the league title, slowing the Cavaliers' running game in the second half and daring quarterback Marques Hagans to try and beat them through the air.

Hagans threw one touchdown pass, a 32-yarder that Alvin Pearson pulled in over Jimmy Williams in the third quarter, but completed just seven other passes before the Hokies went ahead 24-10 with 5:08 to play.

Randall, honored along with 18 other seniors before his final game at Lane Stadium, passed Don Strock as Virginia Tech's career passing yardage leader on a 12-yard completion to Jeff King with 10 minutes left.

Randall celebrated on the next play, finding Josh Hyman behind Tony Franklin for the second time, this one for 32 yards and a 17-10 lead. Cedric Humes padded the margin with a 32-yard TD run with 5:08 left.

After a scoreless first half, Vir-

ginia Tech got the help of two 15-yard flags to drive 66 yards and get on the board.

Franklin was called for pass interference when Randall threw deep for Josh Morgan, and on the next play, Kwakou Robinson got a 15-yard personal foul for hitting Randall after he'd been tackled on an 8-yard run.

The plays led to Brandon Pace's 31-yard field goal midway through the quarter, and then the Hokies' reputation may have helped them out, too.

Facing a fourth-and-12 punt from his own 40, and undoubtedly aware for the Hokies' affinity for

blocking kicks, Virginia freshman punter Chris Gould got off a wobbler that was downed at the Virginia 45, just 27 yards away.

It took one play, Randall hitting Hyman with Franklin trailing down the left sideline, to give the Hokies the lead for the first time, 10-7.

Virginia had two good scoring chances in the first half, but the Hokies snuffed them both out. Jim Davis got a hand on Connor Hughes' 45-yard field goal try on the game's opening drive, and Jonathan Lewis recovered a fumble by Wali Lundy at the Hokies 8 in the second quarter.

That play came just after a 78-yard run by Pearson.

The Cavaliers finally broke through in the third quarter after a fumble by Eddie Royal on a punt return at the Hokies 31. Facing third-and-11, Hagans hit Pearson, who made a jumping catch in the end zone.

Hughes tied it on a 19-yard field goal with 13:03 to play, capping a 17-play, 78-yard march.

Iowa State kicked out of Big 12 title game

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Miller off to
flying start
with victory
in first
World Cup
downhill
of season

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Illinois,
Wake Forest
come out of
weekend
unbeaten and
on a collision
course

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No. 6 Texas
does its best
to muddle
BCS picture

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